

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1894.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1853.

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SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
The FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION is NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East, from Nine till Dusk. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

GEORGE FRIPP, Secretary.

THE AMATEUR EXHIBITION, Pall Mall, is now OPEN daily, from Ten till dusk, at the Gallery, No. 121, Pall Mall, opposite the Opera House Colonnade. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d.

E. C. BECKER, Sec.

EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS, INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.—The THIRTIETH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society is now OPEN from Nine A.M. until dusk. Admission, 1s.

ALFRED CLINT, Honorary Secretary.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF MINES, and of SCIENCE APPLIED TO THE ARTS—MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.—Professor EDWARD FORBES, F.R.S., will commence a course of Twenty Lectures on the PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL HISTORY APPLIED TO GEOLOGY, on MONDAY, the 9th inst., at 1 o'clock, to be continued on each succeeding Friday and Monday at the same hour. Fee for the course, £2. For further information apply to Mr. Trenham Reeks, at the Museum, Jernyn Street.

H. T. DE LA BECHE, Director.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.
NOTICE is hereby given that the first EXHIBITION of FLOWERS and FRUIT, in the SOCIETY'S GARDEN, will take place on SATURDAY, May 14.

Tickets can be procured at this Office upon presenting the order of a Fellow, price 5s. each; or on the day of the meeting, at Tatum Green, price 7s. 6d. each.

21, Regent Street, London.

PROFESSOR AYTOUN'S LECTURES ON POETRY AND DRAMATIC LITERATURE. Willia's Rooms. The Second and Third Lectures by Professor AYTOUN from Edinburgh, will be delivered at the above Rooms, on MONDAY, May 8th, and FRIDAY, May 13th, commencing each day at Half-past 5 o'clock. Reserved Seats, 5s.; Unreserved Seats, 3s. To be obtained at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, and at the Rooms, on the Days of each Lecture.

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Applications for Shares and for Prospectuses to be addressed to CHARLES LEWIS GROSSE, Secretary.

This day, Saturday, the 7th of May, will appear No. L, price Sixpence, of

THE PRESS; being a Weekly Paper, intended to fill an obvious void in Journalism, and to combine, on an entirely new plan, Political, Literary, and Artistic Resources. To be published every Saturday. Office for Advertisements, 110, Strand, London, where all Communications should be sent, addressed to the Editor. Money Orders for Subscriptions to be made payable to Mr. ALFRED IVE.

SUCKING PIGS IN WANT OF TEATS.—Bits of the Budget.—The Game.—Bishop of Durham.—Take Care of your Pockets.—Our Christian Lords and the Jews.—All alone of the Cardinal's Hat, &c. See LLOYD'S WEEKLY LONDON NEWSPAPER, edited by DOUGLAS JERROLD, price Three-pence, post free, containing writings by the Editor, and SIXTY COLUMNS OF THE VERY LATEST NEWS.—Send three postage stamps to E. LLOYD, Salisbury Square, London, and receive a paper as a sample, or order of any newsgate.

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PRESIDENT—THE MARQUIS OF LANDSOWNE, K.G.
The SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUARY DINNER of the Corporation will take place in Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 11th of May.

The Right Hon. BENJAMIN DISRAELI, M.P., in the Chair.

STEWARDS.
His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.
The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G.
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Tickets, One Guinea each, may be obtained from the Stewards, and from the Secretary, at the Chambers of the Corporation, 73, Great Russell Street.

OCTAVIAN BLEWITT, Secretary.

THE WELLINGTON DINING-ROOMS.—Entrance, 160, PICCADILLY.—This splendid Establishment, formerly Crockett's Club, will OPEN to the Public on TUESDAY, 10th of May next, on a scale of magnificence unprecedented in London, combining extreme moderation in charges with the most unexceptionable Cooking and Bill of Fare; and uniting the independence of a public dining-room with the comforts and accommodation of a first-rate club.

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THURSDAY, the 12th of MAY instant, By His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, who, accompanied by the Countess of St. Germain, will proceed in Full State from Dublin Castle to the Building. The KNIGHTS of ST. PATRICK will take part in the Ceremonial. The CABINET MINISTERS, FOREIGN AMBASSADORS, and

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES of the Principal Towns in the United Kingdom, have been invited to be present at the Opening.

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On the Inauguration Day the Doors will be Open at Half-past Ten o'clock.

From the 13th May to the 21st inclusive, the Doors will open at Twelve o'clock and close at Six o'clock each day during that period, when the Admission Fee charged at the door will be Five Shillings for each person.

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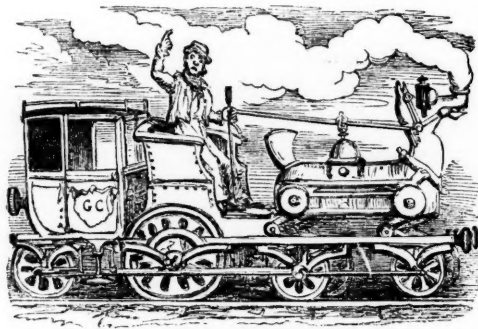
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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1853.

REVIEWS.

Memorials and Correspondence of Charles James Fox. Edited by Lord John Russell. Vols. I. and II. Bentley.

THE life of Charles James Fox has yet to be written. Lord John Russell has merely followed Lord Holland and Mr. Allen in collecting materials for a formal biography. He says that "he would have desired to weave into one continuous narrative, illustrated by correspondence, the life of Mr. Fox." But the present work is confessedly "disjointed and irregular." In reviewing Lord Holland's 'Memoirs of the Whig Party' ('L. G.', 1852, p. 295), we remarked, with regard to Fox, that no English statesman so distinguished during life has been so long without a biographer. It was known that his nephew was for many years employed in preparing a life, but the collection of materials, only partially arranged, was not carried beyond the year 1786, and little in the way of narrative was attempted. At Lord Holland's death the papers were put into the hands of Mr. Allen, who began the work anew, inserted many passages explanatory of the history of the time, and caused a large portion of the correspondence to be copied. In this state the papers were found by the present editor, when they came into his possession by the bequest of the late Lady Holland. It was expected that Lord John Russell would be the biographer of Fox, and the historian of his time. No man of the present day could have undertaken the work so thoroughly as a labour of love, prompted by admiration of his public character, and by sympathy with his political principles. But Lord John has confined himself to the more humble office of an annotator and editor. The two volumes now published consist of biographical patchwork, concerning which it is notified in the preface that "the passages written by Lord Holland are generally marked V. H. (Vassal Holland) at their close, those of Mr. Allen are included between brackets [], and mine between asterisks * *." We have said so much about Lord John's editorial labours in regard to the Journal of his friend Thomas Moore, that we refrain from any further criticism on this point. The pressure of "public affairs" can scarcely be received as an apology for the manner in which these memorials of Fox are presented. Surely it was with far other ideas than that he would be a successor in the work of compilation that Lord Holland spoke as reported by Lord John Russell—"foreseeing that he should not be able to complete his work, one day that he was employed upon it, he told me that he believed it would be left to me to finish." The work as it is will certainly give Englishmen a better knowledge than they now possess of one of the most striking periods of their history, and of one of their greatest men. But after expectation had been raised so high, the abandonment by Lord John of his purpose of writing a formal life of Fox will always be matter of disappointment and regret. The fragments of regular narrative throughout these volumes prove how well he would have accomplished the work. Of the 'Memorials and Correspondence,' as prepared by the three successive editors, we proceed to give some account. The extracts, when not other-

wise described, will be distinguished by the same marks of authorship as in the volumes.

The materials in Lord Holland's possession were by him divided into seven groups, corresponding to as many periods of Mr. Fox's life, as thus distinguished—

"First, such documents, private or public, as relate to the birth, family, connexions, and education of Mr. Fox. Secondly, those that refer to his own private or public life, from the period of his taking his seat in the House of Commons to his separation from Lord North in 1774. Thirdly, the correspondence, anecdotes, and events, from 1774 to 1782. Fourthly, from 1782 to the dissolution of Parliament in 1784. Fifthly, the letters, papers, anecdotes, and recollections, relating to his private and public life, to the commencement of the war of 1793. Sixthly, letters, papers, and recollections, relating to his opinions, occupations, manners, and political conduct, from the year 1793, and during his secession from Parliament till his return to Parliament and coalition with Lord Grenville in 1803 and 1804. Seventhly, and lastly, correspondence, recollections, notes and papers, relating to his parliamentary and official conduct, and to his public and private character, from the year 1803 to his last illness and death in 1806. These would form seven books."

Lord John Russell divides the third of these periods, from 1774 to 1782, into two, on account of the importance of the events of 1782—the formation of the Rockingham ministry, and the close of the American war, the present volumes bringing the memoir down to the close of the year 1792.

Of the early life and the education of Mr. Fox, Lord Holland has given some interesting memorials. He was born in Conduit-street, on the 24th January, 1749. At two years and a half he was thought "a clever and sensible child;" at seven he was "all life, spirits, motion, and good humour," also "very pert and argumentative." His first rudiments of education were received at a school at Wandsworth, kept by a Frenchman, Pampelonne, among whose pupils were more boys of some station in life than usual in so small a number. In a letter from the late Earl of Egremont notices are given of some of his school contemporaries at Wandsworth, including Lord Ilchester, the Duke of Leinster, Lord Fortescue, Lord Braybrooke, Sir Thomas Frankland, Lord Aylesford, and the Marquis of Townshend. In autumn, 1758, Fox was sent to Eton, where one of his private tutors was the Rev. Mr. Francis, the translator of Horace, and father of Sir Philip Francis. At this time his health seems to have been delicate, for his father, in a letter to Lady Caroline, says, "whenever you think London or Holland-House better for Charles than Eton, be assured I shall like it. There is no comparison to be made between health and learning; besides that, I am sure enough for him of the latter; I wish to God I were so of the former." In 1763, after a temporary visit to Paris and Spa, during the summer, he finally left Eton in November, and was brought to town by his father to hear the debates in parliament on the publications of Mr. Wilkes, and was present at the condemnation of the famous "'North Britain,' No. 45, as a false, scandalous, and seditious libel." His over-indulgent father unhappily took him to places of more dangerous excitement, and an early passion for gaming and pleasure in every form was acquired.

"Between school and his actual appearance on the great theatre of the world, other and less agreeable prognostics were afforded of his future career. His mother does not seem to have been insensible to the dangers to which the ardour of

his mind and the unbounded indulgence of his father might expose him. Among other things his rivalry with young William Pitt, his junior by ten years, seems to have been early predicted. The Duchess of Leinster related to me a conversation, at which she was present, between her sister, Lady Caroline, and Mr. Fox (Lord Holland). Lady Caroline, in expostulating with her husband on his excessive indulgence to his children, and to Charles in particular, added, 'I have been this morning with Lady Hester Pitt, and there is little William Pitt, not eight years old, and really the cleverest child I ever saw, and brought up so strictly and so proper in his behaviour, that, mark my words, that little boy will be a thorn in Charles's side as long as he lives.' [In telling this story, the Duchess of Leinster naturally called the persons she mentioned by the names she first knew them by. It is almost unnecessary, therefore, to say, that when Mr. Pitt was eight years old, his mother had been many years Lady Chatham, and Mr. and Lady Caroline Fox, Lord and Lady Holland.]"

Of his College life at Oxford we give but one notice:—

"He passed the greater part of one whole vacation at Oxford with his friend and contemporary Dickson, afterwards Bishop of Down, a man remarkable for warmth of heart and gentleness of disposition, as well as for uncommon agreeableness of manners and singular advantages of person. They studied very hard, and their relaxation consisted in reading to one another, or by themselves, all the early dramatic poets of England; they spent their evenings for that purpose in the bookseller's shop, and I think I have heard Mr. Fox say, that there was no play extant, written and published before the Restoration, that he had not read attentively. From some accident or another he and Dickson were at this time without money, and as they had no acquaintance between Oxford and London, likely to give them credit, they determined without a penny in their pockets to walk up to Holland House (full 56 miles) without any expense of conveyance, lodging or board. The day was sultry, and when they had got to Nettlebed, between Benson and Henley, Mr. Fox was so hot and fatigued that he stopped with his friend at an alehouse, to eat some bread and cheese and drink some ale. He was obliged to leave his gold watch in pawn, for the payment of his homely fare, with the landlord, and performed the rest of his journey in the course of the day. On his arrival, his first exclamation to his father, who was taking his coffee, was, 'You must send half-a-guinea or a guinea, without loss of time, to the alehouse-keeper at Nettlebed, to redeem the gold watch you gave me some years ago, and which I have left in pawn there for a pot of porter.' He always plumed himself on the steadiness and length of his walks, and even later in life, and when he was grown corpulent, not unfrequently decided any disputed distance by walking five or ten miles himself, in full confidence that the time he employed in it was a sure measure of the distance."

Mr. Fox was returned for Midhurst in the parliament which met May 10, 1768, being then little above nineteen years of age. As he was on the Continent he did not take his seat till the second session in the following November. His first speech was on March 9, 1769, his second on the 14th April, in support of the expulsion of Wilkes, and a third time on the 8th May, against the return of Colonel Luttrell for Middlesex. These speeches, made before he was of age, produced a favourable impression in the house. Our next extract is from what the editor describes as MS. Memoirs of Horace Walpole, and presents Fox in a different phase of his character:—

"6th January, 1772. 'Charles Fox, whose ambition was checked by the inactivity in Parliament, gave notice in the House of Commons that he intended, on that day fortnight, to make a motion for the repeal of the Marriage Act, in order to

bring in a new bill. His father, Lord Holland, had distinguished himself in the late reign by his animated opposition to that bill. 'When he moved this repeal he had not read the Marriage Act, nor did he till some days after. A few evenings before he had been at Brompton on two errands; one to consult Justice Fielding on the penal laws, the other to borrow 10,000*l.*, which he brought to town at the hazard of being robbed. As the gaming and extravagance of young men of quality had arrived now at a pitch never heard of, it is worth while to give some account of it. They had a club at Almack's, in Pall Mall, where they played only for rouleaus of 50*l.* each, and generally there was 10,000*l.* in specie on the table. Lord Holland had paid above 20,000*l.* for his two sons. Nor were the manners of the gamblers, or even their dresses for play, undeserving notice. They began by pulling off their embroidered clothes and put on frieze great coats, or turned their coats inside outwards for luck. They put on pieces of leather (such as are worn by footmen when they clean the knives) to save their laced ruffles; and to guard their eyes from the light and to prevent tumbling their hair, wore high-crowned straw hats with broad brims and adorned with flowers and ribbons; masks to conceal their emotions when they played at quize. Each gamester had a small neat stand by him, to hold their tea, or a wooden bowl with an edge of ormolu to hold their rouleaus. They borrowed great sums of Jews at exorbitant premiums. Charles Fox called his outward room, where those Jews waited till he rose, his Jerusalem Chamber.—H. W."

The gossip about Fox, selected by Lord Holland from Horace Walpole's manuscripts, is in that amusing chronicler's most characteristic style. We give another passage referring to Fox at the age of twenty-three:—

"Very few days before the conclusion of the Royal Marriage Bill, young Mr. Crawford, mentioned above, told me this story. He gave a dinner to his countryman, Mr. Wedderburne, the Solicitor-General, to Charles Fox, and others. They got drunk, and in his cups, Wedderburne blabbed, that he and Thurlow had each drawn the plan of an unexceptionable bill, but that Lord Mansfield had said they were both nonsense, had rejected them, and then himself drew the present bill, 'and damn him,' added Wedderburne, 'when he called my bill nonsense, did he think I would defend him?' In the course of the debates, I have given very inadequate ideas of the speeches of Burke, and Charles Fox and Wedderburne, three excellent orators in different ways. I could only relate what I heard at second-hand, and from notes communicated to me, which must be imperfect when not taken in short-hand. Burke's wit, allusions, and enthusiasm were striking, but not imposing; Wedderburne was a sharp, clever arguer, though unequal; Charles Fox, much younger than either, was universally allowed to have seized the just point of argument throughout with most amazing rapidity and clearness, and to have excelled even Charles Townshend as a Parliament man, though inferior in wit and variety of talents.

"Enough of that bill—never was an act passed against which so much and for which so little was said.—H. W."

To a passage of Horace Walpole describing Tommy Townshend's twitting Lord North with "bestowing pensions on those notorious Jacobites, Dr. Johnson and Dr. Shebbeare," Lord Holland appends this note:—

"I think I have heard that Dr. Johnson happened to be in the gallery that day, and was much gratified by Mr. Fox's reply to Mr. T. Townshend, in which he approved of the pension to Johnson, and without being aware of his presence, spoke with great warmth in his praise. Even his subsequent exertions in favour of American liberty never cancelled this obligation. In 1784, in the heat of the Westminster election, Dr. Johnson, bade Sir Joshua Reynolds surmount his scruples

and vote for Mr. Fox, saying, 'I am for the King against Fox, but for Fox against Pitt.'—v. n."

The third book opens with a masterly sketch by Lord John Russell of the state of public affairs at home and abroad when Fox entered public life. Valuable as is the matter prepared by the previous editors, when we come to this first piece of Lord John's connected composition our regret recurs that he has built on other men's foundations, when he might have constructed a work in which unity of design would have been as conspicuous as excellence of materials. We shall not attempt to touch the political disquisitions of the editor, but select one of his detached sketches of the statesmen of the time—that of the famous Lord North:—

"Frederick Lord North, the eldest son of the Earl of Guildford, represented the old Tory politics of that family. He had boasted in the House of Commons, that he had voted against all popular, and for all unpopular measures. With an ungainly appearance, and awkward manners, he had a vigorous understanding, and though not fond of application, soon became superior to all but Mr. Grenville in the knowledge of finance. He came into office as a junior Lord of the Treasury, and when he was offered the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, declined it at first, for fear of encountering Mr. Grenville's mature and merciless criticism. There was, however, at this time, an utter dearth of persons to defend, in the leading offices, the policy of the Court. The Rockinghams and the Grenvilles were odious to the King. Mr. Conway was too scrupulous, and voted against the measures of the Ministry to which he belonged. Sir Gilbert Elliot was proscribed by the public as a Scotchman, and seems to have preferred the convenient party called the King's friends—who, as he truly said, were courted by every ministry by turns—to the slippery ascent of political eminence. Lord North, a man of firmness sufficient to defend bad measures, and not too obstinate in urging his own views; of a talent for speaking which gave a decent pretext to a willing majority, and, moreover, an hereditary foe to the great Whig party, was an invaluable accession to the Court. Lord North had many qualities which endeared him to his followers. His good humour was inexhaustible. When reproached with indolence and love of flattery, he answered that he spent a great part of his time in that house, which was not indolence, and that much of what he heard there could not be called flattery. The language of those days was far less courteous than that to which we are now accustomed. In the vocabulary of opposition he was a profligate, and a wicked Minister, who deserved to have his head brought to the block. Lord North generally disregarded these invectives. But when he saw an occasion of retort, his wit turned the laugh of the House against his opponents. Thus, when Alderman Sawbridge presented a petition from Billingsgate, and accompanied it with much vituperation of the Minister, Lord North began his reply, 'I will not deny that the worthy alderman speaks the sentiments, nay the very language of his constituents, &c.' He was often asleep in the House, but when an opponent exclaimed, 'The noble lord is even now slumbering over the ruin of his country, asleep, at a time'—'I wish to God I was,' muttered Lord North, opening his eyes on his discomfited opponent. In private life he was a most affectionate husband and father, beloved by all who surrounded him. Yet he could not suppress his habitual inclination for a joke, even when the occasion seemed least propitious. His son George coming to him one day for money to pay his debts, drew a picture of the straits to which he had been reduced, and finished by saying he had been obliged to sell his favourite mare. 'Quite wrong, George,' rejoined Lord North, 'Equam memento rebus in arduis servare.' It is to be hoped that after this merciless pun he advanced the money.

"Lord North's good humour and readiness gave

him great influence with the House of Commons. But he was supported on each side by Thurlow and Wedderburne. Two men of more hardy understandings, or of more pliant consciences, have seldom adorned and desecrated the profession of the law. I here revert to Lord Holland's remarks on the position of Mr. Fox. *"

Our next extract from Lord John Russell's 'Memoir' refers to the declaration of American independence, with a brief sketch of Washington:—

"The year 1776 was the year of the declaration of American Independence. Great Britain appears to have used every means most fitted to bring about this result: vacillation in council, harshness in language, feebleness in execution, disregard of American sympathies and affections, were all employed to alienate our colonies. In the present year Hessian troops had been hired to inflict on American farmers and tradesmen the horrors of war. The American provinces were treated with military licence; houses burnt, property plundered, friends estranged, enemies exasperated. To complete the horrors of civil war, Indian savages were excited to hostilities against the King's subjects.

"But the power which was thus made an object of hatred was made also one of contempt. General Howe was forced to evacuate Boston, spiking his cannon, and abandoning his stores, for want of adequate reinforcements. The spirits of the Americans were raised to the highest pitch, while their passions were inflamed to the most intense resentment.

"Thus encouraged, and thus excited, the Congress, on the 4th of July, agreed to the memorable Declaration of Independence. The wrongs inflicted or threatened by George III. were enumerated; and in conclusion it was declared—

"We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States."

"This declaration was the cry of an infant state. It has since grown to manhood; it has now a giant's strength.

"Whether it would have been possible to maintain the colonies in subjection to the Crown of England for a much longer period, may well be doubted. Trade regulated at Westminster could hardly be consistent with wealth and freedom at New York. Sources of dispute might have arisen, even if the plan of Lord Rockingham, or that of Lord Chatham, had been fully adopted. But it was the peculiar infelicity of George III. and Lord North that they turned to gall all those feelings of filial piety which had so long filled the breasts of the Americans.

"The Declaration of Independence has one singular defect in it, but which only proves the lingering affection which the Americans still retained for the mother country. * * *

"The success of America was owing, next to the errors of her adversaries, to the conduct and character of General Washington. In him were united the purity of the most disinterested patriotism with all the energy of the most stirring ambition; the utmost reluctance to engage in the contest, with the firmest will never to abandon it when begun; the most intrepid devotion of his life and his fame in hazardous attacks, with the calmest judgment in all matters political and military. The dissensions of Congress, the envy of rivals, the apathy of his troops, the calumnies of his enemies, neither excited him to rashness, nor stopped him in his career."—J. R."

Of several eminent men there are brief sketches similar to this of Washington. Here are two of Chatham and Rockingham:—

"This session of Parliament was rendered for ever memorable by the death of Lord Chatham. Factious in the commencement of his career, and impracticable at the close, he was yet a great man,

and the only great man of England during his period. His flashes of eloquence scattered his opponents; and his war measures swept the enemies of his country before them. He loved and venerated liberty; was free from all personal corruption, and, with a sagacity and boldness seldom equalled, raised the glory and greatness of his country.*—

J. B.

"Lord Rockingham was the acknowledged head of the Whigs. No man, not even excepting Lord Althorp, ever carried into public affairs a purer love of the public welfare. His good sense was never at fault—his judgment clear, his power of expression in writing not inferior to his judgment; his capacity for uniting and guiding men of separate views and jealous tempers, generally acknowledged. But he had two deficiencies. First he was no orator, and could seldom be induced to rise in the House of Lords. Secondly, want of health and of natural vigour made him inactive, and inclined to fear rather than hope."

After bringing the narrative of Fox's career down to the end of the administration of Lord North and the close of the American war, the editor takes a general review of the time, the opening paragraphs of which admirably show the spirit and style in which the original parts of the work are written:—

"We may conclude this period by a review of the memorable events which marked the early periods of Mr. Fox's political life.

"The politics of the Court received from him, for a time, a vigorous support; but he soon burst the chains in which he had been confined, and giving loose to his natural genius, displayed at once the mighty power of his understanding, and the expansive benevolence of his heart.

"Mr. Grattan, who had heard Mr. Fox at various epochs, declared his preference for the speeches delivered during the American war to all the other efforts of his eloquence.

"The American war was indeed a subject fit to inspire the genius of an orator beyond all other occasions of modern times. The singular folly of the original provocation; the absurdity of renewing the quarrel, when the embers of a former dispute were yet warm; the want of foresight which was exhibited in making concessions always a year or two after the time when they would have been successful in closing the breach; the wretched plan upon which the war was carried on; the extravagance of attempting to conquer America when a French and Spanish fleet rode triumphant in the Channel; the opposition to all wise counsels persisted in till the very members of the Ministry fell off from the body; the animating struggle which at the end made victory doubtful in each successive fight; above all, the immense consequences involved in the contest; all these were circumstances to quicken into life the energies of a great orator.

"In reviewing the history of this period, it is impossible not to perceive the blindness and weakness of nearly all the various rulers who succeeded each other in the government of the country.

"Mr. Grenville, seeing the progress made by the North American colonies, and their obvious tendency to evade and disregard the British laws, thought to bind them by regulations which could scarcely be enforced in the Thames and the Mersey. Reflecting that seventy millions of debt had been incurred during the seven years' war, in securing and extending our American empire, he proposed to make the triumphant and formidable colonists pay one hundred thousand pounds a-year to the British revenue!

"Lord Rockingham repealed the Stamp Act, but thought it necessary to maintain the right of taxing America. Whatever this right might be as a question of public or national law, it was obvious it could not be exercised with justice or equity; but perhaps it was not practicable at that time to abandon it, nor do the Americans appear to have resented the barren claim.

"The Ministry of Lord Chatham, however, reached the climax of improvidence and absurdity. It had

been proved that the attempt to tax America had provoked resistance; it was therefore determined to try a new tax with the certainty of rousing a new resistance. Mr. Grenville had failed in obtaining a substantial revenue from America; it was therefore decided to maintain a tax, for the sake of a tax, for no object but that of a quarrel, when all prospect of revenue had disappeared.

"It is due to Lord Chatham to say, that the tea duty was imposed when he was incapable of attending to business. It was afterwards retained, when other taxes were given up, by the Ministry of the Duke of Grafton, against the opinion of the Duke of Grafton himself, of Lord Camden, of Lord Shelburne, and of General Conway.

"Surely such a decision, carried by a majority of one in the Cabinet, ought to have opened the eyes of all the Whig members of that Cabinet. It was clear that Lord North, the seign of a Tory family, the inheritor of Tory principles, had inaugurated a Tory Government on the appropriate occasion of enforcing the payment of a tax against justice and against policy, for the purpose of setting up Authority against Liberty.

"When Lord North was made First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, there was still time to conciliate America. Lord Chatham would have willingly concurred in any plan by which the right of taxation should be surrendered, and the supremacy of the mother-country retained. But neither the King nor his Ministers had the wisdom to make with dignity, and with effect, concessions which they made three years afterwards without dignity and without effect.

"It cannot be denied, however, that in his resistance to American claims George III. had the full concurrence of his people. The national pride revolted from any submission to demands loudly put forth, and accompanied with menaces of rebellion."

The concluding portion of the first volume contains a remarkable correspondence between Fox and Thomas Grenville, the ambassador at Paris. To the position of Grenville, the French court, and the intrigues of Lord Shelburne, who had a separate emissary at Paris, we have recently had occasion to refer in reviewing the 'Grenville Papers.' Lord Shelburne's proceedings appear in a very discreditable light, according to all the testimonies of the time. The King, there is little doubt, was the instigator of Lord Shelburne's duplicity, and used him as his tool for disuniting and baffling his own ministers. The notorious cunning of George III. was never more put into play than at this period, and though Shelburne flattered himself that he had acquired the King's complete confidence, and boasted of his influence, the King used in familiar conversation to speak of his minister as 'the Jesuit.' With the closing sentences of the account of these transactions few readers will not now entirely concur:—

"In all probability the King's chief object was to produce the rupture which ensued, and he did it by encouraging Lord Shelburne to thwart Mr. Fox. It is painful to me to record any misconduct of Lord Shelburne, or to revive any reflection on his character for duplicity. Justice to the memory of Mr. Fox requires me to preserve the facts on which his persuasion of it was grounded, as well as the testimony of their contemporaries, which prove that such a view of his impracticable and insincere character and dealings was not confined to Mr. Fox and his friends."

We must leave for another article the review of the life of Fox during the important decade from 1782 to 1792, commencing with the coalition ministry, so fatal a scheme for his future influence in the country, comprising the unfortunate India Bill, the rise and consolidation of the power of Pitt, and bringing us to the brink of the war of the French Revolution. "To this period," says Lord

John Russell, referring to Mr. Cobden's '1793 and 1853,' "attention has been lately called in a pamphlet of singular clearness and force, and the calumniated wisdom of Mr. Fox has been contrasted with the popular folly of his rival." As the work proceeds greater prominence is given to the letters of Mr. Fox and to the narrative of his biographer, and the memorials begin to assume more of the form and dignity as well as to comprise the materials of history.

The Poems of Goethe. Translated in the Original Metres. With a Sketch of Goethe's Life. By Edgar Alfred Bowring. John W. Parker & Son.

IF Mr. Bowring's skill as a translator were equal to his perseverance, the reading public would be greatly his debtor. Two years ago he published a translation of all Schiller's minor poetry, good, bad, and indifferent, and now he has performed the same office for Schiller's friend. Of this rapid style of disposing of compositions which it took these great minds years to elaborate, it is impossible to speak, except in condemnation. Were the powers and accomplishments of Mr. Bowring fifty-fold what they are, he could not but fail in an enterprise so rashly undertaken and so hastily carried out. Goethe himself, had Goethe been able to write in English as powerfully as in German, could not have accomplished it; and assuredly he would have been the first to condemn such hardihood in another. Mr. Bowring ought to know that the days for tolerating bad translations from the German are gone by. Every schoolgirl has become familiar with the language, and if we are to have translations at all, they must possess unquestionable merits as poems in themselves. But a further question arises, namely, What is truly worth translating? and this Mr. Bowring seems never to have considered at all. That a poem has been written by Goethe is with him a sufficient warrant of its excellence. This is a mistake excusable in a school-boy, in the first pride of being able to read a foreign poet, but experience should have taught Mr. Bowring that the English public, fed as it is from childhood upon the finest poetry in the world, can have no peculiar interest in all the trivialities that escaped from the pen even of the Sage of Weimar. It is notorious that among Goethe's minor poetry is to be found quite the average proportion of pieces which the world will most willingly let die—mere ephemera, always marked, no doubt, by great nicety of finish, as regards form, but utterly valueless, either for their matter, or as characteristic of his genius. Commonplace is commonplace, even from the lips of Goethe, and our English nature demands something in lyrical poetry of a more substantial texture than the flimsy fancies on which the sentimentalists of Fatherland dwell with the fondness of blind devotion. Mr. Bowring, however, worships with all the enthusiasm of a novice. He does not keep his eyes open, or his judgment active, in the presence of his idol; and he calls loudly upon us to go down upon our knees, when we are only disposed to turn away in vexation and disappointment. It may with perfect justice be said, that no skill in translation could render tolerable at least one half of the pieces in this volume. We are accustomed to see in our current literature poetry of an order so much richer and manlier, so much fuller of sentiment and passion, that it is mere waste

of time to think of transferring to our language what never had any particular value in the poet's own. Goethe, as all German scholars know, carved cherrystones as well as gems. Skill is wasted on the one, it enriches and is enriched by the material of the other. But his gems are gems indeed, and any translator, be he never so gifted, will find quite enough to do in transferring to our language the minor poems, about whose merits there can be no room for question.

If there be one quality more than another in which Goethe's poetry excels, it is in the exquisite felicity of language and versification. Goethe could not produce anything in which these qualities were wanting. His words were always the aptest, the rhythm always in perfect harmony with the theme. Now, these are just the characteristics which can neither be acquired nor copied without infinite labour and thought. What translator, who spins off pages of verse with the rapidity of Mr. Bowring, can hope to preserve either the one or the other? Mr. Bowring professes to preserve the original metres, and, sure enough, he generally follows his original line for line; but his performances bear the same relation to Goethe's, as a street musician's to those of Paganini. Let any one compare, for example, his version of *The Bride of Corinth* with the wonderful original, and say if he can find in it one echo of the delicious music of the measure which Goethe invented for this poem. The double rhymes of the first and fourth lines of each verse are not even attempted, although these form an essential element in its structure; and when we turn from the form to the substance, equal disappointment awaits us. One verse will suffice as an example. It is thus that Goethe paints the phantom bride, when midnight booms upon the lovers at their weird revel:—

"Eben schlug die dumpfe Geisterstunde,
Und nun schien es ihr erst wohl zu seyn.
Gierig schlürfte sie mit blassem Munde
Nun den dunklen blutgefärbten Wein;
Doch vom Weizenbrot,
Das er freundlich bot,
Nahm sie nicht den kleinsten Bissen ein."

Nothing can surpass this in vivid force of description. How fine is the epithet 'dumpfe,' giving all the solemnity of the midnight hour pealing heavily on the ghostly silence! Then again, mark how the elation of the phantom is brought out in the second line—the power of the 'gierig schlürfte,' in which we seem to hear her pallid lips lapping with almost ferocious eagerness the blood-tinctured wine; and the significance of the adjective 'kleinsten,' as indicating her ghost-like repugnance to the wheaten bread, although pressed upon her by the fond youth with whose fate she is so strangely linked. Now see to what Mr. Bowring has watered down this brilliant stanza:—

"Now the ghostly hour of midnight knell'd,
And she seem'd right joyous at the sign;
To her pallid lips the cup she held (!)
But she drank of nought but blood-red wine.
For to taste the bread,
There before them spread,
Nought he spoke could make the maid incline."

The rest of the translation is in the same feeble wishy-washy style. Nor is this to be wondered at. We know that one of the most gifted men of the day, who is, moreover, one of our most brilliant poets, tried in vain for years to render into English verse of the same measure, to his own satisfaction, even one stanza of this exquisite poem. But Mr. Bowring no doubt took it at a canter with the rest of his task. The result is just what might have been anticipated. We do not

follow Mr. Bowring through any of the finer poems, rhymed or unrhymed, for in all we should find equal cause of complaint, and it is simply painful to contemplate the reproduction of such perfect works of art in shapes so maimed and distorted. Enthusiasm is a must lead, in a translator of works like Goethe's, to something nearly akin to sacrilege, as it has done in the present instance. Neither is Mr. Bowring, in our opinion, free from blame in introducing into this volume many poems which, if not of doubtful morality, are at all events conceived in very bad taste according to all received English notions. How much better to have bestowed upon the good poems the time occupied with verses open to this objection, or with such trash as the following:—

"MAIDEN WISHES.
"What pleasure to me,
A bridegroom would he!
When married we are,
They call us *mama*!
No need then to sew,
To school we ne'er go;
Command uncontrol'd,
Have maids, whom to scold;
Choose clothes at our ease,
Of what tradesmen we please,
Walk freely about,
And go to each rout,
And un restrain'd are
By papa or *mama*."

Surely this might have been left in its native Teutonic, without loss to Europe. But if Mr. Bowring must needs translate it, wherefore inflict upon us the old cockneyism of 'mama' rhyming to 'are'? We should the vulgar character of what was already vulgar enough in tone, had we not found Mr. Bowring indulging in such rhymes as 'charm' and 'calm,' 'calm' and 'alarm,' 'taught' and 'sport,' after the simple manner of the men of Cockaigne. Such things are enough to make Goethe's ghost shudder.

That Mr. Bowring is capable of producing translations above the average of merit we have no doubt;—for there are signs of ability even amid the crude and hasty verbiage of this volume. But the best thing that can happen to him is, that it should find its way rapidly to the trunkmakers, and that he should, if his enthusiasm for his author does not evaporate in the meantime, devote the leisure of his next ten years in reducing his translations to a form more worthy of the original.

The Dorp and the Veld; or, Six Months in Natal. By Charles Barter, Esq., B.C.L., Fellow of New College, Oxford. Orr and Co.

We have not much authentic account of Natal, though it is a colony of growing importance. The tide of emigration is flowing so strongly and steadily to Australia, that other settlements are in danger of being too much neglected. With regard to Natal especially there has been an unfavourable reaction, the expectations raised by the flattering pictures of emigration prospectuses ending to book will do good service in both these respects—it will recall attention to a valuable grants an impartial and authentic description of the country, its position and prospects. Natal forms part of the extensive region of Kaffraria, between lat. 28° and 31° south, and long. 29° and 31° east, separated by the Drakenberg mountains from the territory

between the Orange and Vaal rivers, recently annexed to the Cape Colony, and country by the Buffalo and Tugela rivers. The area is about 18,000 square miles, the population about 150,000 blacks, and 7,000 whites, Dutch and English. Pieter Maritzburg, the capital, is about fifty miles inland from Port Natal, which is near the centre of the coast line. In climate, fertility, and mineral wealth, the colony has great advantages. Cotton and indigo grow wild; coffee, sugar, wheat, tobacco, furnish good crops; superior building stone is found all over its surface, and iron ore is abundant. The resources of the country are ample, and the partial and temporary disappointments of emigrants afford no cause for discouragement as to the ultimate prosperity of the settlement. Mr. Barter, after a thorough examination of the colony, has published this descriptive volume; and such is his own confidence in its capabilities, that he has chosen it as the land of his adoption. If his report of the land is not over-sanguine, it is at least safe and satisfactory, and may be relied on as authentic and trustworthy.

Mr. Barter left Gravesend on the 22nd June, 1850, was off the Cape on the 1st September, and six days after the ship anchored in the Bay of Natal. The first appearance of the village of D'Urban, about a mile and a half from the port, is thus described:—

"If we had been disappointed by the rugged aspect of the coast in the various glimpses we had obtained of it during the course of the last few days—and they certainly had not been encouraging, we were amply recompensed by the glorious view which burst upon us as we emerged from the narrow channel into the open bay. Surrounded by wooded heights, forming a mass of luxuriant foliage, which form the village of D'Urban, with a background of bare mountain in the distance, and the deep blue cloudless sky over all, the bay of Natal is indeed a lovely spot, hardly needing the immediate contrast which it presents to the wide expanse of ocean, to enhance its beauties in the eyes of the newly-arrived visitor. The custom-house, a substantial stone edifice, with a slate roof, is the most prominent object in the scene; it stands on the beach, just at the termination of the bush and the commencement of the spit of sand which runs out to the bar, and of which the bar is, in fact, a part. Here all seemed life and animation; gay parties on horseback, among whom we could detect more than one riding-habit, crowded to the edge of the water, while every boat in the place appeared to be afloat, and filled with eager faces. We had scarcely taken up our position, and laid hold of African soil, ere we were boarded by a motley crew of agents, storekeepers, custom-house officers, and a fair proportion of a class known in America as 'loafers,' and by sailors universally as land-sharks. There are plenty of such cattle in all colonies, and I mean no offence to the good folk of D'Urban in saying that they are not exempt from the pest. All were of course eager for news, and for some time there was a perfect torrent of question and answer, interrupted only by exclamations of surprise, or satisfaction or displeasure, as the contents of our budget chanced to affect the listeners. Newspapers were at a premium, and the bearers of private letters were important persons. The approach of night at length put an end to the tumult, and we were again left to ourselves, one only of our passengers having gone ashore; he had been a commercial traveller, and was bent on a spree."

We pass over the description of the capital, Maritzburg, which is a quiet town, the centre of a pastoral country, and where the customs

and manners of the Dutch original settlers have not yet been overborne by the progress of English trade and enterprise. The following account of the general aspect of the country districts gives an unvarnished and practical statement of what must be expected by those who go to the colony as emigrants:—

"It has been the fashion with those who have promoted emigration to Natal, to insist much in their guide-books and prospectuses, on the fact that, throughout the greater part of the country, no clearing is required to prepare the soil for the seed, but that the settler, on arriving at his location, can at once commence ploughing without any of the previous labour or expense which he must incur in an American forest. All counterbalancing difficulties are passed over in silence, and the reader is left to infer that in other respects there is at least an equality of advantages, and that the Natal emigrant is, at first starting, so much in advance of his Canadian brother. If the soil of Natal were a rich mass of soft vegetable mould, so easily worked as to need no other preparation than that of a light harrow for the reception of the first seed; if its natural qualities were such as to enable it to bear the same crop year after year without artificial aid; if, in short, it resembled an Illinois prairie, the comparison would then indeed be altogether in its favour. But since, on the contrary, its surface, when not composed of sand, is so completely baked as to offer a strong resistance to plough or spade, since, at least, it is but of an average degree of fertility, by no means independent of manure, still less of irrigation, for which moreover the facilities are frequently wanting, the fact of its being, as some of the advertisements triumphantly affirm, 'for miles uncovered by a bush,' is not after all so great a matter of congratulation; and I shrewdly suspect that if accounts were compared after the first harvest, the crop taken from among the stumps of a Canadian forest, would go farther towards defraying the expenses of clearing than the produce of the unencumbered ground of Natal towards repaying the necessary outlay of ploughing, digging a water course, &c.

"I have said quite enough to prove that unless in peculiarly favoured situations, or in the immediate neighbourhood of a town, a system of small allotments, such as twenty, fifty, or even a hundred acres, is a manifest absurdity, and therefore that for labourers without capital Natal does not offer an advantageous prospect. Agriculture must be combined with stock farming, not only for the sake of the manure, but also for the simple reason that it cannot support itself alone. Six thousand acres of land have hitherto been considered necessary to support an undertaking of this double character. But we will suppose that one thousand might be sufficient, and that on every estate of that size twenty acres of irrigable land might be found, which is rather above than below the mark, still a capital of at least 400*l.* would be required for commencing operations with any hope of success. With this sum in his pocket, and a well-selected lot, (for it is not every farm in Natal that is high and healthy enough for cattle), the steady, industrious settler who devotes his time entirely to his business, goes rarely to the town, and can do a fair day's work himself, will run little risk of failure, though not to him, nor even to a larger capitalist, can I hold out the hope of making anything like a fortune by these pursuits."

In another place the author remarks:—

"Our daily routine was seldom varied by any unusual incident, and its journal would contain little worth recording. As for work, though we now mustered several hands, I cannot say that much was done; indeed, accustomed as I had been to the constant and stirring employment of a Canadian wilderness farm, where exertion is never suffered to flag, where the axe or the plough are always at work, and the different tasks of clearing, stumping, fencing, &c., succeed one another without an interval of rest; with these reminiscences of agricultural life, I could not avoid being struck

with the contrast presented by the listless inactivity, I might almost say drowsiness, that pervaded everything at Plaatberg Farm.

"There was as yet but one plough in the district, and that was engaged by the rival agriculturist at Harrismith, spade cultivation was not thought of, and the only real work, the herding and tending of the cattle, milking the cows, &c., was performed by Kafirs, seven of whom had come to seek for employment, and had been engaged for a year, at the wages of a heifer a-piece, in value about 2*l.*"

The following account of the country called 'the Sovereignty,' will throw light on some things which are referred to in the newspaper reports of Kaffrarian affairs. After describing the long and arduous ascent of the Drakenberg, the author proceeds:—

"And now having climbed the mountain, the reader will doubtless be preparing himself for its descent on the other side. What, then, will be his surprise when he learns that there is no such thing; but that the summit, like the top of Jack's celebrated bean-stalk, is the level of a vast tract of country occupying an area of about 50,000 square miles. We are now in the Vaal River district, the most northerly division of the Orange River Sovereignty.

"As this extensive territory is beginning to attract public notice, and is, I fear, likely still further to engross it, from the spread of disaffection among the coloured inhabitants, it may not be amiss to give a brief account of its history, natural capabilities, and geographical position.

"The Sovereignty is bounded on the south by the Orange River, the great artery of South Africa, which separates it from the Cape Colony Proper, or, as it is generally called, the Old Colony. To the north, it is bounded by the 'Likwa,' or Vaal River, which at present constitutes the well-defined limits of the southern line of the self-constituted Dutch Republic, to which I have, in a former chapter, made casual allusion. To the west, the boundary is formed by the confluence of this stream with the Orange River. Both these rivers take their rise in different parts of the Kathlambo or Drakenberg mountains, whose continuous ranges, known by different local names, form a natural barrier to the eastward, utterly impassable for a great portion of its length, and effectually dividing the Sovereignty from the Zulu country, Natal, and the line of sea-board which stretches southward to Kafirland.

"It is divided into four districts: that of Bloem Fontein to the south and south-west, in which is the town, of the same name, the capital of the country and seat of Government; that of Caledon, whose principal town is Smithfield; that of Winberg, in the centre, with a village of the same name; and the 'Vaal River District,' to the north and north-east, in which the principal, and indeed the only, town is the newly-founded *dorp* of Harrismith, situated in lat. S. 23° 15', long. E. 28° 42'.

"With regard to its natural characteristics, it admits of a threefold division. The Highlands adjoining the mountain ranges, the great plains of the interior, and the patches of soil, more or less productive, that are found along the course of the principal streams.

"These last are of too rare occurrence to deserve much notice. They may include many degrees of fertility, the highest scarcely reaching an average standard of excellence, and far inferior to the soil of Natal, in corresponding situations.

"The plains, or *vlakten*, occupy more than two-thirds of the whole extent of the Sovereignty, and may be said to constitute the general character of the country.

"They are vast flats, dry, barren, and desolate, entirely bare of wood, even of the stunted bush, which is sometimes dignified by the name, and almost equally destitute of water. For all agricultural or pastoral purposes they are utterly valueless; but the amount of animal life which they support would appear fabulous were not the fact

attested by so many credible witnesses, that all doubts on the subject have long merged into wonder and admiration.

"Here are the chief haunts of those countless herds with which the whole interior of Africa appears literally to swarm, and which afford such rapturous delight to an enthusiastic sportsman. The grotesque gnu, the graceful quagga, the light and elegant spring-bok, the swift blesbok, may be seen here in thousands, aye, and tens of thousands, spread over the plain, or marching in almost endless line across its surface; while on their tracks, with sure but stealthy tread, follow the lion, the prowling hyena, and that sleek, well-fed villain, the jackal, the dread of the African sheep-farmers."

The mere enumeration of these animals is tempting to a sportsman, and the details of the chase as described by Mr. Barter are sufficient to induce many lovers of rough adventure to follow in the steps of Mr. Gordon Cumming. On the Kafir war, the character of the natives, and the best policy to be adopted towards them, the author's opinions are worthy of attention. The notices of the natural history and physical features of the country will interest naturalists, while the work conveys amusing and instructive information to the general reader. The title, we should observe, is taken from the local or Dutch designation of a farm or settlement, *dorp*, and the open country, *veldt*. A map would have been an acceptable addition to the volume.

Crime: its Amount, Causes, and Remedies.

By Frederic Hill, Barrister-at-Law, late Inspector of Prisons. Murray.

THE author of this work belongs to a family that has done the State some service, and more than one member of which would in old Roman times have been honoured with a civic wreath. The name of Rowland Hill is gratefully associated with postal reform. A second brother, the Recorder of Birmingham, is a leader of the philanthropists of the midland counties, and has especially done much for the reformation of juvenile delinquents. Another brother of the same family is well known in the educational world as a zealous and successful instructor. Mr. Frederic Hill was for many years the Government Inspector of Prisons in Scotland and in the northern districts of England, where, under his active superintendence, and through his judicious advice, important improvements in prison arrangements and discipline were introduced. His annual reports on the Scottish prisons were highly prized by the authorities under whom he acted, and are well known to all interested in the subjects to which they refer. From the increased public attention recently paid to all that pertains to the condition and management of the criminal population of this country, and from the tendency to demand additional legislation, a statement of the experience and opinions of such a man is valuable and opportune. On some subjects, such as those of secondary punishments, there is urgent call for something more being done, in consequence of the increased difficulties connected with transportation. In many departments of prison management there is still room for great improvement, while on the general subject of the causes and prevention of crime there is infinite scope for active beneficence and for judicious reform.

The first part of Mr. Hill's volume is historical and statistical, and a very gratifying picture is given of the vast improvement in recent times in everything relating to crime in this country. As to the amount of crime,

it is shown that the quantity is steadily decreasing in proportion to the population, and that it is also taking a milder form. Atrocious cases will always occur, but the general virulence is diminishing. The number of habitual offenders is comparatively small, and there is some prospect of the amount of crime being so reduced by well-directed exertions, as to affect much less materially the social happiness of the community, and to relieve the country of much of its expensive and disagreeable obligations. The statements on this subject lead to an examination of the chief causes of crime and their appropriate remedies. On this part of the subject the author treats of pauperism, drunkenness, and various kinds of profligacy, and of the different inducements and temptations to offences of a criminal nature. Improvements in legislation are described, and the still more important changes in social usages and habits. On the latter subject we give an extract, satisfactory in its statements, and also worthy of attention from its pointing out the fallacies often attending statistical returns:—

"The diminution that has taken place in drunkenness and other profligacy is perhaps as generally felt and admitted as the decrease of ignorance. Still it may be not unprofitable in this, as in the other branches of our subject, to take a short retrospective glance.

"Before doing so, however, I would call attention to the little reliance that is to be placed in this matter, as in crime, on ordinary statistics. Mournful conclusions are frequently drawn from the increase which has taken place in the number of gallons of spirits on which duty is paid; it being inferred from thence that there must be a corresponding increase of intoxication, notwithstanding the evidence of our senses to the contrary, in the comparative infrequency of the spectacle of a reeling drunkard. The correct conclusion to draw from the fact referred to, in my opinion, is, not that there is more intoxication than formerly, but that there is less illicit distillation and smuggling. In corroboration of this, I may mention that in Morayshire, a few years after the reduction of the duty on Scotch whisky, I was told by the Sheriff-substitute at Elgin, that whereas before the reduction not a shilling had been paid into the Exchequer for duty on spirits in that district, there was then an annual payment of 40,000*l.*; and this, he said, instead of being the result of an increase of drunkenness, was concurrent, to the best of his belief, with a considerable decrease. He stated that, before the reduction of duty, there had been a great deal of illicit distillation; and that as this was carried on chiefly in the night, the temptations to drink, on the part of those engaged in it (including no small portion of the rural population), were great; and that they yielded to these temptations, was often evident by the appearance of the country people in the neighbourhood when you met them early in the morning.

"Again, in comparing the quantity of spirituous liquor consumed in Scotland with the quantity in England, it seems to be seldom remembered that in Scotland there is but little intoxicating liquor of any other kind; whereas, in England, the chief beverage is ale and porter. Moreover, I do not remember to see it noticed in statistical returns, that, in Scotland, there is generally so large an admixture of water with the spirit, that the drink is comparatively weak, and cannot, I should think, be productive of the same maddening effects as the stronger spirituous liquor generally drunk in England.

"In many parts of Scotland, the occurrence of a funeral (when nature so especially evokes the best feelings of the heart, and calls for a grave and thoughtful demeanour) was formerly disgraced by foul drunkenness and unseemly mirth. But these times are now past.

"Even in the upper classes some may yet remember the day when it was held an offence for a guest

to leave his host's table in the possession of his faculties; instead of being carried home in a helpless state of intoxication, and with the diminished cause of riot and quarrelling, resulting from the more sober habits of the present day, one of their frequent consequences has almost disappeared in the decline of the barbarous practice of duelling.

"In bringing about this happy change, the more general instruction in the art of reading, and the greater cheapness of newspapers and other popular literature already referred to, have doubtless had a powerful influence, by affording intellectual pleasures in place of those of a gross and sensual kind; and the greater attention of late years paid to music, the opening of parks, botanical and zoological gardens, picture galleries and museums, the cheapness of travelling, and the increased general cultivation of rational amusements and improving recreations, must all have promoted the same good end."

Of the remedial measures on which reliance is chiefly to be placed the following summary is given, judicious and practical details being presented under the several heads:—

"The remedies consist chiefly of good education and the general spread of knowledge; the cultivation of habits of forethought, sobriety, and frugality, with the control of the passions; the promotion of habits of industry and self-reliance, and the adoption of all other practicable means for raising every class of society beyond the sphere of destitution, and into that of comfort and moderate wealth; such a remodelling of our laws as shall bring the statute book as nearly as possible into coincidence with the eternal principles of justice, so that while it is a code of municipal law, it may also serve as a manual of morality; and lastly, the adoption of such means as shall secure, as far as practicable, that every offence be followed by immediate detection and certain conviction, and the criminal brought deeply to regret the wrong he has committed, and to labour earnestly in the work of reformation, and in obtaining the means for making restitution to the person whom he has injured."

On the subject of female profligacy and the amelioration of the condition of the sex in humble life, there is much good sense and feeling expressed, and some practical suggestions are offered:—

"Much, I believe, would be done towards securing the virtue of the female sex, and towards the general diminution, therefore, of profligacy, if the practical injustice were put an end to by which women are excluded from many kinds of employment for which they are naturally qualified. The general monopoly which the members of the stronger sex have established for themselves is surely most unjust; and, like all other kinds of injustice, reacts on its perpetrators. Why are our streets still crowded with prostitutes, to the ruin of the health and morality of the poor creatures themselves, and to the deep injury of those who yield to the temptations which it is their degraded trade to present? To a great degree, because the payment for the labour of females in this country is often so small as to demand, for obtaining an honest living, a greater power of endurance and self-control than can reasonably be expected; whereas, let the male sex but forego any slight additional remuneration which they may obtain for their labour by the exclusion of females, and whilst thousands of women would be saved from degradation, the young physician, clerk, or artisan, aided by the income of the woman to whom he is attached, would often find that, without imprudence, he might, at a much earlier age than at present, take upon himself the duties of a husband and father, and partake of the happiness and moral security which marriage, when based on affection and mutual esteem, is so eminently calculated to afford.

"Among the occupations for which women must have at least as much aptitude as men, I would specify printing, the laborious part of which has now, to a great extent, been superseded by the printing machine; though even before the general introduction of this noble instrument by Mr. Cow-

per, the division of labour had confined the heavy bodily work to comparatively few hands. The chief requisites, however, for composing (the main business of the printing office) appear to be nimble fingers, an acute sense of touch, and a quick eye; and surely no one would maintain that the female sex is deficient in these respects.

"Gilding, also, and the lighter parts of cabinet-making, seem well fitted for women; as does the yet more lucrative employment of clerks.

"No doubt a determined effort would be made by many of those who are now engaged in these occupations to prevent the admission of females to them, and to keep up the monopoly of sex; but the employers, if supported and urged on by public opinion, would soon break through fetters of this kind.

"Even the lightest duties in the fashionable shops of haberdashers, lacemen, and mercers, are now performed by men; and a young athletic fellow, with sinewy limbs, may be seen handling a ribbon or a piece of lace, or giving his opinion whether a particular kind of muslin will wash. It is much to be wished that all this were felt to be as discreditable to one party as it is degrading to the other.

"If it be desired really to raise the reward for female labour, it must be by correcting such evils and injustices as these, and by doing all that we can to augment the general remuneration for industry. It seems to me to be more than idle to blame the person who pays for female work only what the labour market enables him to give, however small the pittance. So far as his act operates, he assists in raising, and not in depressing, the reward for female labour, even if he give but a few halfpence for making a shirt.

"Nor, so far as my observation has extended, is it by any interference on the part of the legislature between the employer and the employed that benefit is to be expected; on the contrary, I believe that (though far from the intention of those who propose such measures), instead of bettering the condition of the parties for whose advantage they are intended, these restrictions have an opposite effect, and produce new evils in addition."

As to some of the proposed female employments, such as composing in a printing-office, we do not offer a favourable opinion; but we agree with the author in considering the present system of employing men in the light duties of haberdashery and other shops, as an unjust and unseemly application of labour. Great relief would be given to female industry, if room were made for it by man-milliners being occupied in labour more suited to their sex.

The chapters on Pauperism and the Poor-Laws contain much valuable matter, but on this point we confine our notice to the concluding suggestions as to the means for still further diminishing the evils of poverty:—

"For the further decrease of poverty in this country we must look to the increased value of labour consequent on better training and a wider spread of general education; to sanitary improvement, by which the physical powers may be strengthened, and the period for active exertion and productive labour prolonged; to increased habits of self-control and forethought; to improvements in machinery, and to discoveries in chemistry and other branches of science; to the withdrawal of the remaining fetters on trade and commerce; to such an alteration in the laws relating to land as shall make its transfer secure, simple, and cheap, and thereby allow full scope to that strong and general desire to possess land which, that they may obtain the means of purchase, will induce men to labour hard, and to live frugally; to the saving, by increased habits of sobriety, of a large portion of the money now wasted in intoxicating liquors; and perhaps to a saving also of a great part of the cost of the army by a substitution, for a large portion of them, of a well-selected and well-organized militia, and by the employment of the remainder of the

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military force and the naval force, when not required for purposes of war, in maritime discovery, the conveyance of emigrants, the construction of railways, the reclamation of waste land, and other kinds of productive industry."

The subject of Prisons and their Management is that on which Mr. Hill's views will be regarded as of most importance and value, on account of his personal experience as an inspector.

In general we so entirely agree with Mr. Hill in his views, and approve of his suggestions, that we are unwilling, even if space permitted, to raise arguments on special points on which we differ from him. But we may mention that the chief faults of the book arise from a failing "leaning to virtue's side," the benevolence of the author sometimes causing him to neglect the claims of justice. In all that he says of the treatment of criminals, he only considers it as reformatory, not as punitive. The former is no doubt the principal aim, and the most agreeable. But by divine appointment the magistrate is also a minister of justice, and the best interests of society will be secured by attending to all the principles and precepts which in the sacred Scriptures have been afforded for the guidance and assistance of human experience and legislation. We do not refer merely to the question of capital punishments; but in everything relating to crime, to leave out of view the principles of punishment, is neither consistent with moral justice or social policy. With the exception of this tendency to view the magistrate's duty towards criminals as simply reformatory, the principles of the work have our general concurrence, while the important information and valuable suggestions on the whole subject of crime, its amount, causes, and remedies, are dealt with in a judicious and practical manner, which will secure for the volume the consideration which it deserves, both from public authorities and private philanthropists.

A Visit to Mexico, by the West India Islands, Yucatan, and United States, with Observations and Adventures on the Way. By W. Parish Robertson. 2 vols. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

MR. PARISH ROBERTSON is already favourably known as an author by his books of travel and adventure in South America. Along with a brother, since deceased, he published, a good many years ago, 'Letters on Paraguay,' 'Francia's Reign of Terror,' and 'Letters on South America,' containing personal narratives and historical memoranda down to the close of the year 1820. The continuation of their journals down to 1834, when the brothers finally left South America, was projected, but afterwards abandoned, and other avocations seemed to have terminated the association of the author's name with the New World. But in the course of events Mr. Robertson came to be Consul in London for Peru in 1845, and Consul-General of Ecuador in 1847. These nominations led to his becoming a member of the Committee of Spanish American Bondholders, in which official capacity he undertook a mission to Mexico soon after the conclusion of the peace with the United States. The author set sail in the West India packet *Avon* in December, 1848, and returned to England by Canada in December of the following year. His letters to friends at home during this period, and those of his daughter, who was the companion of

his travels, are now arranged in the narrative forming these two volumes. The special object of Mr. Robertson's mission, and the fact of his journal having been first written in the unrestrained frankness of epistolary correspondence, sufficiently explain and excuse any diffuseness in particular parts of the work. A book of travels more concise and formal might have been made from the materials; but few readers would have preferred this to the artless and circumstantial details of letters not prepared for the press. On the more important points of his journey Mr. Robertson has added careful statements, and, in regard to the celebrated district of Real del Monte, with its mines, a report from Mr. J. H. Buchan, the resident engineer, makes that part of the work more interesting and valuable. Interspersed through the volumes are extracts from the letters of Miss Robertson, the sensible and lively strain of which agreeably varies the narrative. In the first part of the book the voyage from Southampton to St. Thomas's is described at great length, and then from St. Thomas's in the *Forth*, until the unfortunate wreck of that ship on the 14th of January, 1849. The circumstances were fully narrated at the time in the public journals; but the graphic account of the shipwreck, and of the sojourn in the island of Perez, will be read with much interest, as related by Mr. Robertson and his daughter. The latter thus writes in a letter from Campeachy, five days after the shipwreck:—

"On Saturday, the 13th, we had beautiful weather, everything wearing the brightest aspect. We had been getting on uncommonly well from the time we left Havana, and we were looking forward to a happy termination of our long passage.

"We knew we were not far from the scene of the dreadful wreck of the *Tweed*, about two years before, and we were talking in the evening of that event; but we felt so secure ourselves, that I laughed when my father said he would not allow me to read the account of the loss of the *Tweed* (which he himself had been studying), till we had safely passed the Alacranes. That evening I sat up late on deck, for it was lovely moonlight. I saw the captain, and when I spoke to him, he said, 'In order to be sure to keep you at a proper distance from the enemy, I have just taken another observation, and it agrees perfectly with the other; so there is not the slightest fear; we shall not be abreast of the Alacranes till after broad daylight.'

"I went down to bed after ten, with as little fear as on any night I had been on board. But although I thus went to sleep, I suddenly awakened up soon after five A.M., still almost dark, to all the horrors of an awful scene. The vessel was then on the rocks. I had only confusedly felt the first shock; but presently I knew, from the unwonted movement of the vessel, and the strange noises overhead, that something fearful must have happened. I got up, and went into my father's cabin. He was not there; he had gone on deck, having felt the first shock; but soon returning, he told me, what I saw by his agitated manner, that there was little or no hope; in fact, that we might go down at any moment. I must leave you to imagine the state of our feelings at such an instant. After a short time given to each other, we went on deck. Meanwhile the noises and heavings of the vessel were appalling. Every crash we felt seemed likely to prove the last. On deck, I cannot describe the scene which presented itself; you must wait till I can look back more calmly than at present. It was with the greatest difficulty that we could hold on to the rigging, so as not to be pitched overboard. As it was, my poor father had a serious fall, and I cannot help wondering that he escaped as he did. Orders were now given to lower the boats, and you may fancy our dismay, when we saw one of them knocked to pieces. They succeeded, however, in safely lowering the second; into which we got,

with many others, including all the females and children. We remained in the boat what seemed to me a long time; and while thus waiting, the cry of 'a sail!' arose on board the steamer, and then a boat was sent to seek assistance. I cannot describe the feelings which overpowered me throughout the whole scene; I only know, that when the words, 'We are safe!' were pronounced, 'hardly understood or believed them.

"The captain behaved in the very best manner throughout: cool and prompt, he retained wonderful presence of mind. All his officers, too, exerted themselves to the very utmost; and another person, who distinguished himself in a manner not to be forgotten by those present, was Lieutenant Molesworth, whom I have mentioned in my other letters."

The notices of Yucatan contain matter that will be new to many readers, and also the account of the journey from Vera Cruz to Mexico; but as our extracts must be few and brief, we confine ourselves to three or four passages, which afford good specimens of the author's views on Mexican affairs, and of the style in which his book is written. Of the general international relations and policy of Great Britain and Mexico he thus speaks:—

"Of the imports of Mexico, I suppose four-fifths are British; and a close friendship between the two nations would lead to such fiscal ameliorations in this, as would progressively, and to a wonderful extent, develop the resources and the riches of Mexico; and by increasing its power of consumption, would give elasticity to its commercial capabilities. A mutual confidence thus established, and a better government organised here, I make bold to say, that there is not a country on the face of the globe where England could lay out surplus capital so securely and so profitably as in Mexico. The working of its mines alone would give employment to millions of money and thousands of additional hands.

"This mutual good understanding between the two nations would by degrees lead, naturally and inevitably, to a tide of emigration from England towards Mexico. The variety, but everywhere the beauty of its climate is proverbial; and in mining, in agriculture, in pasturage, in the common arts, there is room in Mexico for ten times its actual population. Politically, and supposing the *entente cordiale* to exist, it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Mexico as an ally of England."

Of the political position and prospects of the country a very low estimate is formed. An account of the public festivals, on the 16th of September, the anniversary of the independence of Mexico, thus concludes:—

"High mass, grand procession—president, ministers, municipality, guards, militia, regulars, bands of music, and citizens—harangues from great men, huzzas from little boys—windows and balconies crowded with beauty—streets thronged with *leperos*—flags, muslin curtains, flowers, everywhere. In short, one would have thought that the people had really something *worth while to celebrate*, in keeping alive the remembrance of their Independence. Alas! I could not but fear that it might all be likened to the heralded and escutcheoned pomp and parade of high and mighty funeral obsequies. Grandeur to the eye, but on lifting up the shroud—*death*, in all its pallor."

Yet it is a magnificent country, as the descriptions given both of its natural scenery and productions testify. The letters on the mining districts contain much important statistical information, and will be valued by all who have any commercial or financial interests at stake in connexion with the country. The general reader will be more pleased with the descriptions of scenery, such as this of the heights above the glen of the Barranca, near the capital:—

"When at last, to gain the main road, we mounted a steep ascent from the valley, and sud-

denly stood on a high table-land, what a scene burst on my astonished view! The sun was descending on the most lovely of all tropical evenings—the light perfect but soft—the air balmy but cool. On one side, in a single *coup d'œil*, I got the whole winding glen through which we had passed, with wooded hills, one range rising above another, as they receded in the distance. The Barranca itself is three or four hundred feet deep—all wooded. On the other side, stretched away the great valley of Mexico, the wonder and glory of this splendid country; cultivated, planted, green, dotted with haciendas, and in the centre the city of Mexico, with its towers, and spires, and palaces, glittering in the rays of the setting sun. Beyond, lay the semi-circle of lower mountains, and, verging on the horizon, the great snow mountains, Iztacihuatl and Popocatepetl, rearing their hoary heads to the clear blue sky, and also illumined by the sun's now softened light! I was rivetted to the spot: I waved to Don Manuel to go on, and before I could force myself to the carriage, my friends were half angry and half amused with the way in which I had delayed them."

Of President Herrera, and other notable or conspicuous public men with whom "the Mexican Commissioner" transacted official business, and of the varied society into which the strangers were thrown during their stay, spirited accounts are given. We had marked for quotation parts of the description of the Acordada, or public prison of Mexico, one of the worst managed in the civilized world, and of the Colegio de las Biscaynas, one of the noblest and best managed of charitable institutions; but for these we must refer our readers to the work, and conclude with the following pleasing sketch from one of the letters, written from Washington, of old General Zachary Taylor, then President of the United States:—

"Mr. Crampton invited us to his pew for the following day (Sunday), where, he told us, we should have an opportunity of seeing the President and his family. We went accordingly, and in a pew only two removed behind us, there, as a plain citizen, sat Zachary Taylor. He carried not with him the slightest outward indication of his being the chief magistrate and ruler of one of the most powerful nations on the face of the globe. Here was no 'Prince President,' surrounded by glitter, and show, and pomp. General Taylor simply made one of the congregation, undistinguishable and unremarked. There was something grander in this than in mere regal display, in so far as solid power, without show, impresses the mind much more strongly than show without solid power.

"Nothing could well be more original than the personal appearance of the late President of the United States, to whom his countrymen gave the soubriquet of 'rough and ready.' He was dressed in a suit of plain clothes; his blue coat of anything but the last Bond-street cut. The weather being cold, he wore coloured worsted gloves, which were something too long. His straight hair fell smoothly on his forehead; while his face, browned under many a sun—his temples furrowed with many a thought, gave token of the deeds he had performed, and of the anxieties he had suffered in his country's cause. He had a pleasing expression in his eye; and now humbly standing in the presence of his Maker, surrounded by his fellow-citizens, all within seemed tranquil and serene. There was not the slightest approach to aristocratic bearing about the man: quite the reverse. I could have fancied the figure of some bold, tried, and weather-beaten pilot, scrupulously dressed in his Sunday suit, donned for the decent performance of the solemn ordinances of the day."

The last letter gives a hearty and humorous description of a public dinner of Scotchmen at Halifax on St. Andrew's day. *The America*,

Cunard steam-ship, merely touched at Halifax for the mails and passengers, and Mr. Robertson and a friend having landed with the Lieutenant, while strolling about till the mails were ready, they stumbled by chance into the Hall, and were greeted with the warm hospitality for which Scotchmen are renowned when their patriotic feelings are roused. Mr. Robertson soon made himself known as a compatriot, and so compulsory was the kindness shown to him and his friend, as well as to the Lieutenant with the letter-bags, who came to warn them off, that the captain of the packet had to go on shore in quest of his mails and missing passengers, and he, too, being a great favourite at Halifax, was forcibly detained for a bumper and a song among the Macdougals and Macleods of that St. Andrew's festive gathering.

We have said enough of Mr. Robertson's 'Visit to Mexico' to show that it is a work combining light and agreeable reading with important and useful information.

NOTICES.

Lord Bacon and Sir Walter Raleigh. By the late Macvey Napier, Esq. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

THE two essays forming this volume are reprinted, the one from the 'Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh,' and the other from the 'Edinburgh Review,' of which Mr. Napier was editor after the retirement of Lord Jeffrey in 1829. The essay on Bacon is chiefly a historical examination and statement of the influence of his works on the progress and direction of modern philosophy. The life of Raleigh is a spirited biographical sketch, with an estimate of his public and literary character, "founded on original information derived from unpublished sources, and on a careful examination of all the printed authorities." Mr. Napier did not appear before the public much as an author, but as editor of the 'Edinburgh Review,' and of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' he was well known in the literary world, and occupying one of the chairs of Law in the University of Edinburgh he was esteemed a learned and efficient Professor. The present work is published at Cambridge, we know not at whose suggestion, but its appearance is well-timed in connexion with the recent changes and proposed improvements in Academical education. An article appeared some years ago in the 'Quarterly Review,' which is supposed to represent the sentiments of the English Universities in matters of philosophy, depreciatory of Lord Bacon as a philosopher, and of the methods of science with which his name is associated. To this article Professor Napier's paper is a historical reply, and in connexion with Mr. Macaulay's essay in the 'Edinburgh Review,' forms an able defence of the claim of Bacon to the title of "The Father of Experimental Philosophy." Brewster, Herschel, and all the leading historians of modern science, have amply asserted for Bacon this high honour. Mr. Napier's sketch gives many interesting facts as to the direct influence of Lord Bacon's works on the character and the pursuits of scientific men, both in this country and on the Continent.

Elements of Psychology. Part I. By J. D. Morell, A.M. Pickering.

MR. MORELL, having obtained by his former publications a name among the cultivators of mental science, now appears as the author of a more formal and systematic treatise on psychology. Few men in this country are so thoroughly acquainted with the works of continental as well as English metaphysicians, and so well qualified for noting and reporting the history and condition of metaphysical science as a branch of human knowledge. Those who are interested in such studies will find in Mr. Morell's book much satisfactory information and much curious speculation. The author professes to deal with psychology, not as a branch of transcendental philosophy, but as a positive science,

the facts of which are to be observed and generalized on the same principles as those of other departments of inductive inquiry. To some degree this is done, but we must say that Mr. Morell has but a vague and indistinct view of the real objects and scope of the Baconian method as applicable to mental science. He does not sufficiently discriminate between the necessary conditions and laws of thought, and the phenomena of mind which are proper subjects of inductive treatment. The metaphysician, in observing and studying the phases of his own intellectual or emotional nature, proceeds according to the rules expounded in the 'Novum Organum,' which are applicable to the investigation of all subjects, mental as well as physical. The processes of mental introspection afford the richest materials for the inductive science of mind, while by German metaphysicians, and by Mr. Morell as one of their too obsequious admirers, more attention is given to them for the sake of speculative and transcendental metaphysics. The distinction between *Psychology* and *Metaphysics* is plainly enough set down at the commencement of the treatise—the first as occupying itself with the phenomena of consciousness, the latter determining the necessary modes of mental existence; but throughout the work Mr. Morell appears sometimes as metaphysician where he ought to be psychologist, and at other times what is referred to as objective ought to be included among the subjective materials of inductive inquiry. The reader accustomed to these studies, and imbued with the Baconian spirit, will readily perceive this confusion, and will at the same time appreciate the general learning and acuteness of the author. In the present volume the investigation is confined to the *intelligence*, as distinguished from the *feelings* and the *will*, the consideration of which is reserved for a second part of the 'Elements of Psychology.'

Half-a-Dozen Ballads about Australia. By Martin F. Tupper, author of 'Proverbial Philosophy.' Bosworth.

MARTIN TUPPER is one of the readiest as well as ablest of our living bards. On the death of the Duke of Wellington his pen produced the first, and, with the exception of 'Tennyson's Ode,' the best of the many elegiac tributes to his memory. Anything written by the author of 'Proverbial Philosophy' has a claim to be received with respectful attention. Vigorous thought and generous feeling characterise his works. But in writing formal poetry he is not always so successful as in the rhythmical prose in which his 'Proverbial Philosophy' is uttered. Still there is always rough power, and occasionally refined elegance, in Mr. Tupper's verses, and even when the diction is somewhat unequal, the sentiments generally command sympathy and approval. The six ballads in this little book are entitled, *Advance Australia*, *Farewell to England*, *Australia Emancipated*, *The Convict and the Pauper*, *Good Luck*, and *Bad Luck*. We give the last of these ballads entire:—

"BAD LUCK!"

"A BALLAD FOR THE RICHER DIGGINGS.

"Be it what you will, brother,—worse than what you say!—Try to make the best of things, or heat them as you may! For never have I read in books, or heard, or seen, ill luck That didn't mend apace, when met by hearty English pluck.

"I wot you've come a longish way, and watch'd a longish while, And long'd in vain, from day to day, for ebb'd Fortune's smile; But cheerily, man! the longer you have look'd for luck in vain It must be something nearer now;—so look for it again!

"The blackest cloud that ever was, eclipsing summer light, How looks it on its other side? all beautiful and bright! The darkest providence there is, beheld by Wisdom's eyes, Is merciful, and just, and kind, and excellent and wise!

"So, friend, though disappointed hopes be bitter in the mouth, Hope on! for Nature's very heart is hopeful in the South: Australia, with her tempered climate, and richly teeming soil, Will well repay with golden luck for hopefulness and toil.

"Try labour! No more lottery-work in digging pits for gold, But honest, well-paid labour, in the field and in the fold; The luck that lives on nuggets is but poorly off for health;

But wheat, and fruits, and wholesome roots, are food as well as wealth!"

Here are also two of the stanzas of the Farewell to England:—

"England, farewell!—not lightly, nor gladly,
Now, at the last, do I bid thee farewell!
Hope may be smiling, but Memory sadly
Weeps for awhile in the penitent's cell:
Yet, O my country! I dare not regret thee;
Providence calls me to come from thy shore;
And, though my spirit shall never forget thee,
England, farewell!—I return nevermore!"

"There, for the Thames is my clear Yarra-Yarra;
There, in bright Melbourne my London shall be;
There, far away, shall the wild Illawarra
Smile as the Devonshire valleys for me!
There shall my flocks—my flocks, not another's,—
Pasture on hills that are sprinkled with gold;
There, among neighbours, all freemen and brothers,
May I grow better, and live to grow old!"

A poetical postscript is appended to the ballads, with the manly English spirit and Christian tone of which we are much pleased.

White Slavery in the Barbary States. By Charles Sumner. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.

THE author of this little work, the Hon. Charles Sumner, was one of the few senators of the United States who had the manliness to oppose the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act as unconstitutional, as well as unjust and cruel. We are happy to learn, from Professor Stowe's speech the other day at Glasgow, that the enactment is to a great extent inoperative, not more than twenty or thirty fugitives having been recovered, out of the multitudes who have made their escape from the Slave States. Mr. Sumner's speech in the senate was one of great ability, as well as of much benevolence, and the same spirit is apparent in the present volume. A sketch is given of the history of slavery in the Barbary States, containing many events of historical interest, and the incidents of particular cases on record. There are some stirring narratives of captivity among the Algerines, and of the adventures and escapes of European and of American captives. The work is valuable as a historical sketch, and it cannot fail to exert a favourable influence on American readers, in calling forth generous sympathies, and awakening the sense of justice and humanity towards the oppressed—feelings which, in the case of negro slavery, are overborne by motives of self-interest and of political expediency. Some remarkable extracts are contained in the work from the writings and speeches of many of the founders of the American Republic, denouncing the crimes and deploring the evils of slavery, and giving counsel for its speedy abolition. For instance, a speech of the venerable John Jay, in Congress, in 1786, draws a striking parallel between American and Algerine slavery, and concludes with these words,—“Is there any difference between the two cases than this,—viz., that the American slaves at Algiers are white people, whereas the African slaves at New York are black people?” Mr. Jay was at that time Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Sumner's book is illustrated with many excellent woodcuts, chiefly referring to the historical parts of his subject.

Le Gouvernement du Deux Decembre. Par V. Scholcher. Jeffs.

THIS volume is a sequel to M. Scholcher's former work, 'Les Crimes du Deux Decembre,' noticed by us at the time of its publication ('L.G.' 1852, p. 745). We spoke favourably of the style and spirit of the work, especially as contrasted with the violent tirades of Victor Hugo and other democrats. M. Scholcher has collected a large mass of materials relating to the government of Louis Napoleon and the state of France since the *coup d'état* of the second of December. We suspect that the subject has lost much of its interest for readers in this country, and that this work of M. Scholcher will attract less notice than its predecessor. The crimes which the author denounces were almost inevitable consequences of the follies of the republican rulers and legislators of France from 1848 to 1851. For future historians in his own country M. Scholcher's collection of materials may prove serviceable, but for any immediate influences on public opinion a briefer narrative would have been more effective. Till France learns from religion to value human life and social institutions more, the description even of assassinations and transportations, and

other forcible measures of government, will create little impression on the public mind, however much sorrow and distress may have been brought upon private families.

Rosalie: an Authentic Narrative. By Mademoiselle R. B. de P. With an Introduction by the Rev. Joseph Ridgeway. Arthur Hall, Virtue, & Co.

THIS volume contains the autobiography of a young French lady, who, after many painful conflicts and trials, abandoned the Romish Church, and embraced the Protestant faith. The story is interesting, both from the notices of the society in which Rosalie moved, and from the description of the mental and religious changes of which she was the subject. The introductory statement by Mr. Ridgeway assures the English reader of the complete reliance that may be placed on the truth of the narrative, the acquaintance of his family with the writer having been long and intimate. The memoir itself has every mark of being a genuine and faithful narrative of facts, and record of feelings and opinions. Very beautiful and simple are the style and spirit in which the narrative is written, and it may be put into the hands of young people as a book at once of interesting and profitable reading.

Vocabolario Dantesco; ou, Dictionnaire Critique et Raisonné de la Divine Comédie de Dante Allighieri. Par L. G. Blanc, Professeur des Langues Romaines à l'Université de Halle, &c. Leipsic: Jean Ambroise Barth.

THE learned compiler of this volume offers it as the fruits of thirty years' assiduous study of the 'Divina Commedia.' It comprises the advantages of a concordance, with a dictionary of all the important words and phrases, and will be found of great service, both as a guide to the student of Dante, and as a manual of reference to those who are most familiar with his great poem. The information is admirably condensed, and it is conveyed in the clearest possible manner. A vast extent of inquiry and critical acumen has obviously gone to the preparation of the work, and we can confidently recommend it as likely to save much time and labour to those who wish thoroughly to master the difficulties of the 'Divina Commedia,' without wading through the wilderness of commentaries with which it has been surrounded.

The Etymological Compendium; or, Portfolio of Origins and Inventions. By William Pulleyn. Third edition, revised and improved by Merton A. Thoms. Tegg and Co.

OF Mr. Pulleyn's useful and amusing etymological encyclopedia this new and improved edition will be acceptable to many readers. To those who are unacquainted with the nature of the book, we may best describe it as a compendious miscellany of such subjects as occupy the columns of the instructive and popular periodical, 'Notes and Queries,' comprising notices of origins, inventions, localities, epithets, proverbs, current phrases, colloquialisms, titles, and other topics connected with national literature, usages, and events. The book contains a vast amount of curious information and useful memoranda.

SUMMARY.

New editions of several books of some note have been published. A *People's Edition of Alison's History of Europe* has been commenced, which will bring that voluminous work within the reach of a large circle of readers. It is to be completed in forty-four parts, printed in double-column pages, of clear distinct type, and of convenient size. The same publishers have issued another edition of *The Caxtons*, by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. The seventh edition of one of the best books of popular science, *Philosophy in Sport made Science in Earnest*, is revised and enlarged with several additional chapters. By the aid of the popular toys and sports of youth, the first principles of natural philosophy are impressed upon the youthful mind. The worth of the scientific matter of the volume is apparent on the slightest examination, and the warm approbation of Miss Edgeworth on its first

appearance is sufficient praise of the popular manner in which the book is written. The re-issue of the *Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Men, with Biographies*, originally published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, is continued by the present proprietors. The plates of the portraits seem to have been very little worn, for the new impressions are excellent. The letter-press is not altered, but the re-arrangement of the biographies in chronological order is a convenient improvement. The second edition of *A Glossary of the Provincialisms in Use in the County of Sussex*, by William Durrant Cooper, F.S.A., has corrections and additions, which will make the book the more acceptable to those who study local dialects in connexion with ethnological or philological as well as antiquarian inquiries. The increased demand for works of this class indicates a growing interest in studies on the philosophy and history of language. A revised and corrected edition of *The Septic*, by Eliza Lee Follen, in which moral and religious truth is inculcated through the medium of a well-written domestic tale.

In the series of translations entitled 'Contemporary French Literature,' a recent number presents *Mazzini Judged by Himself and by his Countrymen*, written by Jules de Bréval. Some of M. Bréval's allegations we have not the means of testing, but judging from others which we know to be unfounded, we do not think much faith can be put in his representations. The coarse and intemperate invectives against Mazzini may please his enemies, but a book in such a style will not promote the object for which it was written. Much personal abuse, and the imputation of unworthy motives, are the author's chief weapons, yet English and Protestant readers will receive a favourable impression rather than otherwise of Mazzini and his works, from the perusal of M. Bréval's volume. A *Reminiscence of Gideon Algonon Mantell, F.R.S.*, by a Member of the Council of the Clapham Athenæum, was originally read as a paper to that Institution, in the welfare of which Dr. Mantell took an active interest. An obituary notice, written in the 'American Journal of Science,' by Professor Silliman, is appended to the Clapham memorial, the whole presenting a flattering and agreeable portrait of Dr. Mantell's personal and scientific character. Under the title of *Gatherings of a Country Rambler*, by Lady Elizabeth Dickens, a short story of English country life, in which the benefits of religious education are enforced, is followed by a simple scriptural catechism on the Gospels and the Acts, which parents or teachers will find a useful aid in Bible instruction. In the *School Series*, edited by the Rev. G. R. Gleig, Inspector-General of Military Schools, *A History of France* contains a good summary of events from the earliest periods down to the present empire. An *Essay upon the Philosophy of Evidence*, by Watkin Williams of the Inner Temple, discusses the laws of belief, applying the subject to the credibility of the new system of clairvoyance, in which the author is a firm believer. From the Danish original of Councillor C. F. Wegener, Keeper of the Privy Archives, is translated *A Defence of the Full Hereditary Royal, according to the Lex Regia, of the Kings and Royal House of Denmark*. It is an ably written and well argued paper, and is said to have exercised much influence on public opinion in the discussions now going on concerning the succession to the Danish throne. An academical squib, *The Dragone of Oxforde and St. George off Sainte Stevens*, by Pasquin, refers to matters political and ecclesiastical, but the allusions are obscure and the wit not brilliant.

The third volume of *Chambers's Repository of Instructive and Amusing Tracts* contains a varied and useful set of papers on 'Light-Houses,' 'The War in Algeria,' 'A Swedish Tale,' 'The Writings of T. B. Macaulay,' 'The Retreat of the Ten Thousand,' an Irish story, 'Cute M'Quade,' 'Holyrood,' and 'Persian Poetry,'—a collection of most miscellaneous reading, of a kind well sustaining the epithets attached to the 'Repository.' A new series of cheap publications, to be called 'Shilling Books,' issued by Vizetelly and Co., commences

with an edition of Benjamin Franklin Bourne's *Life among the Giants; or, the Captive in Patagonia: a Personal Narrative*. The second number is announced, 'The Romance of Forest and Prairie Life,' these two volumes indicating in their titles the style of subjects to be produced in this library of cheap books.

An edition of *The Elements of Euclid*, a new text, based on that of Simson, by Henry J. Hose, B. A., Mathematical Master of Westminster School, has various points that recommend it for general use. The text is very clearly given, the arrangement and wording of the steps of proof are managed skilfully, and the manner of drawing the figures by lines of different thickness is such as will facilitate study. The convenient form and size of the volume is another recommendation, 'Euclid' being a book which must often form part of the literary kit of a schoolboy or student, even when in lightest marching order.

In Bohn's Illustrated Library, the volume for the month is *Bechstein's Cage Birds, and Sweet's British Warblers*, with Notes, compiled from various sources by H. G. Adams. This volume, in which the whole of Sweet's 'British Warblers,' now a scarce book, is incorporated, with Lehmann's edition of Bechstein's well-known treatise, is undoubtedly the best popular work on the subject. In the Standard Library appears a translation by Mary Howitt, a kindred spirit, of Frederika Bremer's tales, *The Home; or, Life in Sweden, and Strife and Peace*. The new number of the Classical Library contains *The Politics and Economics of Aristotle*, translated, with notes, original and selected, and analyses, by Edward Walford, M.A. *The Life of Aristotle*, by Dr. John Gillies, and an introductory Essay on his works and opinions, are prefixed to the volume. The translation is good, and the work is throughout edited with ability and care.

We are not yet done with the Wellington obituary literature. Another *Dirge on the late Duke of Wellington*, by the author of 'Oriental Ballads,' presents the subject in verses irregular in metre, and unequal in style, but in some passages containing vigorously expressed thought. A lecture by the Rev. Charles Edward Kennaway, M.A., Vicar of Campden, *The Law of Duty; or, the Deeds and Difficulties of the great Duke*, presents some of the leading incidents of the Duke's life, with special reference to the practical lessons to be derived from them. It is a spirited and instructive historical sketch.

The fourth part of Mr. Akerman's *Remains of Pagan Saxondom, principally from Tumuli in England*, contains coloured plates of several objects of the Anglo-Saxon period, discovered in a tumulus of large size, which had been raised over a number of bodies interred with their arms and personal ornaments, at Driffield in Yorkshire. Also an engraving, of the actual size, of a curious fibula found at Fairford, near Cirencester, most curiously ornamented with the figures of the *fleur de lis*.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Aveling's (T. W.) *Naaman*, 12mo, cloth, 3s.
Brewster's (M. M.) *Work; or, Plenty to Do*, p. 8vo, 2s.
Buckley's (Rev. A.) *Drawings of Genius*, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
Capper's *Emigrant's Guide to Australia*, 12mo, 2s. 6d.
Chalmers's (Dr.) *Correspondence, Extracts from*, 10s. 6d.
Dickens's (Lady E.) *Gatherings of a Country Ramble*, 3s. 6d.
Faraday's *Lectures on Non-Metallic Elements*, 5s. 6d.
Grant's (Mrs.) *Letters from the Mountains*, 2 vols., 10s. 6d.
— *Memoirs*, 3 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 12s.
— *Letters and Memoirs*, 5 vols. p. 8vo, £1 1s.
Grimblot's *Letters of William III. and Louis XIV.*, 7s. 6d.
Grote's *Greece*, Vol. 11, 8vo, cloth, 16s.
Hammond's (Rev. E. D.) *Reconciliation*, fcap. 8vo, 2s.
Hewer's (H.) *Sporting Facts and Fancies*, 8vo, 12s.
Hughes's *Select Specimens of English Prose*, 4s. 6d.
Knight's *Tourist's Companion*, 8vo, 3s.; sewed, 2s. 6d.
Landon's *Imaginary Conversations*, 10s. 6d.
Lords (The) and Commons, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Lyttton's *Leila; or, the Siege of Granada*, post 8vo, 2s.
Mahon's *England*, new edition, Vol. 3, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Martin's (Rev. S.) *Place of Repentance*, crown 8vo, 2s.
Mazzini *Judged by Himself and by his Countrymen*, 2s. 6d.
Merivale's (C.) *Fall of the Roman Republic*, 12mo, 7s. 6d.
Morning and Night *Watches*, crown 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Muffling's *Passages from My Life*, 8vo, cloth, 14s.
Muller (J. O.) *on the Eumenides of Æschylus*, 6s. 6d.
Mundy's *Our Antipodes*, 3 vols, 8vo, cloth, £2 2s.

Neale's (E.) *Bishop's Daughter*, foolscap 8vo, 2s. 6d.
O'Sullivan's (W.) *Hour of the Redeemer*, 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Oxenden's (Rev. A.) *Parish Sermons*, foolscap 8vo, 2s. 6d.
Parrott's (Miss) *Scripture Stories*, 32mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Pidgeon's (W.) *Traditions of Dee-coo-dah*, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
Pulley's (W.) *Etymological Compendium*, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
Sequel to the *Sheltering Vine*, crown 8vo, cloth, 4s.
Seward's (W. H.) *Works*, 3 vols. 8vo, cloth, £2 2s.
Shelford on the *Law of Railways*, 3rd edition, 12mo, £1 10s.
Smith's (J. D.) *Connemara, Past and Present*, 12mo, 2s.
Stoughton's (J.) *Scenes in Other Lands*, foolscap 8vo, 5s.
Stroud's *New Greek Harmony of the Four Gospels*, £1 4s.
Tark's *Introductory German Grammar*, 6th ed., 3s. 6d.
Tucker's (Miss) *Abbeokuta*, foolscap, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Uncle Tom's *Cabin and Key*, 2 vols. 8vo, £1 8s.
Webster's (E.) *New Patent Law*, 3rd edition, 8vo, 3s.

LONDON FIFTY YEARS AGO.

ALTHOUGH we have often to lament the slow progress of social and civic reforms, a comparison of the present times with those not far distant affords some matter of satisfaction. We have before us a 'Picture of Modern London,' published exactly half a century ago, the examination of which suggests some remarks that may interest our readers. We do not dwell on subjects of mere statistical detail, such as the increase of buildings, population, and wealth, and other things which can be measured and numbered, as these are familiarly known, and often referred to. Suffice it to say that the population, which was then under a million, including strangers, now amounts, in the same area, to two millions three hundred and fifty thousand. The consumption of wheat, which was then 700,000 quarters annually, is now nearly 1,600,000. In almost every article of provisions the supply is far more than doubled, and in many respects the change in the markets indicates the general increase of the wealth and of the comforts of the people. We are told, for instance, that in those days 'poultry was seldom seen at the tables of any but the wealthy and luxurious, and the prices were exorbitant.' There are now sold at Leadenhall market alone 1,270,000 fowls annually, and of geese, ducks, partridges, and grouse, nearly the same number. Of bullocks, the annual consumption in 1802 was 110,000, and of sheep and lambs 776,000. The Smithfield sales alone are now about 225,000 cattle, and 1,820,000 sheep. The author of the 'Picture of Modern London' pauses in his details to denounce what he calls 'the detestable nuisance of Smithfield, a disgrace to the police and to the corporation of London.' After the lapse of fifty years this nuisance has received its death-blow, but not till it had long stood as a striking instance of the tenacious vitality of public abuses. Our guide-book warns strangers not to linger in Hyde Park or other open places after dark, 'as it is impossible to shut out robbers and other evil-disposed persons.' Directions are also given to persons who may be attacked in the streets by night, when a 'cry of 'watch,' three or four times repeated, will bring up the assistance of several watchmen.' Travellers are recommended to use every effort to enter London by daylight, 'as they are subject to two evils during the last stage—that of being robbed by highwaymen or footpads, or of having their luggage cut from behind their carriage.' What an altered state of things is represented by merely naming the new London police force and the metropolitan railway stations! We have not yet much to boast of in the improvement of street carriages. In number they are vastly increased, and omnibuses and cabs have displaced the old stages and hackney coaches of the beginning of the century. But as to the comfort of the vehicles, and civility or honesty of the drivers, we are much in the same state that our fathers were. Let us hope, however, that Mr. Fitzroy's Act, which has passed into committee, will inaugurate a new and better era in the history of street-conveyances. The number of hackney coaches in 1802 was only 1000, and there were still 400 sedan chairs in regular use for hire. On the river 3000 wherries plied, instead of the steamers which have now almost supplanted them in the water between London and Westminster bridges. Some curious notices of steam power, then beginning to come into use, occur in this book. In the description of Mr. Whitbread's

brewery, we read that "one of Mr. Watts' fire-engines works the machinery. It pumps the water, wort, and beer, grinds the malt, stirs the mash-tubs constantly when wanted, and raises the casks out of the cellars. It is able to do the work of seventy horses, though it is of a small size, being only a 24-inch cylinder, and does not make more noise than a spinning-wheel." About the security of the railroad-travelling by steam now-a-days we can scarcely dare to say much, but the perils are different from those to which our author in 1803 referred, when he describes "an armed guard travelling always with the mail coach, the rapidity of which is unequalled in any country, and the present rate sixpence per mile." The inland post office is another field on which we are now enjoying the benefit of vast improvement. Great, too, are the improvements in lighting, paving, water-supply, and, in spite of our sewerage defects, in draining. But most striking of all is the change in that instrument of public opinion by which all other improvements are mainly to be sought. After enumerating the journals of that day, the writer says, "It is to be regretted that the assistance and the talents employed upon these supposed representatives of the public mind are not more equal to the difficulty and importance of the undertaking." If we were asked to give any single index of the changes of the past half century, a copy of the Times Newspaper of 1803 and 1853, would, in the appearance, contents, and influence of the two papers, afford the most striking illustration of the two epochs. In the comparisons which the volume before us suggests, it is chiefly in the general progress of the people that satisfactory results are perceived. A separate chapter of 'The Picture of Modern London' is devoted to a sketch of 'society and manners,' the improvements in which are even more marked than those of an external and physical kind. We have much to mend yet in social life, apart from the private evils with which neither legislation nor police can interfere; but the gibbet is not now seen on the public roads, nor are "eight or ten criminals frequently executed in the public street, in the centre of the metropolis, in the broad light of day, the populace looking on as at a raree-show, and the scene, become familiar by repetition, scarcely exciting emotion." In those days the difficulties of the young females who are now known as "distressed needlewomen" were attracting much attention, and a chief cause was assigned, which is worthy of serious notice. Until the beginning of this century it was as rare to find young men employed behind the counter as it is now common in certain departments of business. "It is no uncommon thing," says our chronicler, "to see men employed in the most effeminate branches of art and commerce;" and after describing "the man-milliner as the most conspicuous in this class of innovators," he speaks with indignant contempt of "perfumed coxcombs measuring the riband or folding the gauze," while young women are thrust out of occupations suitable to their sex, and the few employments left to female industry are overstocked.

Many interesting literary and historical recollections are suggested by a perusal of this book of 'London Fifty Years Ago,' when Pitt and Fox were leaders in the House of Commons, and Eldon was Chancellor, and Ellenborough Lord Chief Justice, and when Mr. Davy lectured at the Royal Institution, and Count Rumford presided over the 'experimental dinners,' and the keepers of the British Museum slumbered in Old Montague House, and Sir Joseph Banks gave his Sunday evening soirées to the members of the Royal Society, and Mrs. Billington sang, and Mrs. Siddons acted, and West presided over the Royal Academy, which then embraced such names as Barry, Fuseli, Opie, Turner, Stothard, Lawrence, Flaxman; and when Bishop Porteous preached in St. Paul's, and Dean Horsley at Westminster Abbey, and good old John Newton, the friend of Cowper, at St. Mary Woolnoth, and Rowland Hill at Surrey Chapel, and Matthew Wilkes at the Tabernacle. There were many societies then for all manner of pious and

philanthropic purposes, but on a small scale compared with those of the present day, and missionary societies were only beginning to put forth active exertion, and the greatest of all modern religious associations, the Bible Society, was just projected, of which this year the jubilee has been celebrated. The melancholy description of the prisons in the metropolis in the beginning of the century, as contrasted with their present condition, is one of the most agreeable subjects of congratulation, while new and noble fields of pious and benevolent exertion are now occupied by the Ragged School Union and the London City Mission.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

We have the satisfaction of announcing that in a very short time a direct telegraphic communication will be established between the Observatories of Greenwich and Paris. Lord de Mauley, Chairman of the Directors of the Submarine Telegraph Company, has written to the Academy of Sciences at Paris, to state that on the part of the Greenwich Observatory and of the Company all the arrangements are completed, and that they are only waiting for the Paris Observatory to do its part to commence operations. It may be remembered that some weeks back M. Arago complained that the delay in effecting the union of the two Observatories was on the English side; but since then the wires which united the Paris Observatory with the Central Telegraph Office in the Ministry of the Interior have had to be removed, in consequence, it appears, of some gardeners having damaged them in digging. Some of these gardeners, it is positively stated, actually believed that they were a peculiar species of roots! Instead of being put under ground, the wires are now to be carried along the Octroi wall.

The first attempts which were made to etch metal plates, after designs had been delineated upon them, were by M. Niepce, who in 1827 communicated an account of his experiments to the Royal Society, together with several metal plates, in the state of advanced etchings—the etching being effected by acid, subsequent to that part of the process in which light assisted in laying bare portions of his resin-covered plate. The process of Niepce Niepce consisted in covering the metal surface with a resin—those parts exposed to light became more soluble than the covered portions, and were easily removed, the plate being left with its design, light having done the work of the etching needle. M. Niepce de St. Victor has been extending the researches of his uncle with every probability of complete success. Mr. Fox Talbot has communicated to the 'Atheneum' another process. A solution of isinglass, with some bichromate of potash dissolved in it, is spread over the metal and dried. Being exposed to light the salt is decomposed, and chromic acid combines with the organic body, as was first pointed out by Mr. Mungo Ponton in 1840, to which, however, Mr. Talbot in no way alludes. On all those parts of the plate on which the bichromate of potash remains unchanged the isinglass remains yellow, and is very easily dissolved off, leaving the other parts covered, and consequently protected from the action of the etching fluid, which in this case is the bichloride of platinum. We have not seen any of the results, but they are stated by Mr. Talbot to be very beautiful, and it appears a large number of impressions can be worked off from the plate etched in this manner.

The letter of our Dresden correspondent in our last number describes a curious phenomenon which has recently been attracting considerable attention in Germany—namely, the setting in motion of tables by means of the electric fluid of men and women. Nothing, it is represented, can be more simple in the performance:—a number of persons, male and female, sit or stand around a table with the palms of their hands placed on it, and after a period, more or less long, according to their magnetic power, it begins to move, and even to dance. Our letters from Paris this week also report this strange phenomenon, and state that it is exciting

very general and very profound interest in that city. They give, too, accounts of experiments which have been made with respect to it, with more or less success, by physicians, professors, schoolmasters, and newspaper editors at Bourges, Nismes, Strasburg, Orleans, Paris, and other places. One of the experiments was performed in the house of a distinguished American gentleman, in presence of a large private party, and of a number of distinguished savans. An account of it has been communicated to 'Galignani's Messenger.' This account, which is of a very extraordinary character, is rather long, but the following is the essential portion:—

"In the first place a light mahogany tea-table, with six legs and two castors, was placed on the waxed floor of the salon, and the palms of the hands of four persons (two ladies and two gentlemen) were placed upon it. The formation of a chain or circle, connected by the touching of the little fingers, being a mere pedantry of those who know little of the subject, was not observed. In three minutes the table cracked, undulated, and then moved. On being directed by the will of one of the party, it moved along the floor slowly or rapidly, to the right or the left, forward or backward, when thus directed, it also rose on two legs, and resisted strong pressure before it would come down. While standing on two legs, it also turned round to the right and the left, as directed by the will. A child of seven years, weighing thirty-five pounds, was put upon the table, and it then moved as before, though somewhat less rapidly. Similar experiments were made with other tables—one smaller and one larger. The former moved freely under the hands of two of the French scientific gentlemen, going round, and backward and forward, and rising upon two legs or one, in exact obedience to their volition. They fully admitted the astonishing reality. A large table weighing seventy-five pounds was tried, and the experiments were perfectly successful. It moved rapidly and freely, and rose upon two legs by the volition of one of the party—an effect equal to raising a weight of fifteen pounds! The experiments were repeated over and over again. There was no doubt, I believe, in the mind of any person present, as to the facts here stated. I need but add that these are only confirmations of what is familiarly known in the United States."

Under the somewhat imposing title of 'Prospectus of the Cosmos Institute,' a proposal is made for extending the plan of Mr. Wyld's Great Globe in Leicester Square, from a mere exhibition to a school of geographical instruction. There is already a collection of ancient and modern maps, models, specimens, and books relating to geography, which it is proposed to increase, so as to form a museum and library, on a large scale, adapted for the study of all departments of the physical history of the earth's surface. Ethnology and political geography are also to be included in the project, and in the museum it is proposed to place the costumes and peculiar manufactures of every nation, classified and arranged, together with specimens of all the objects and illustrations of the topics referred to in books of geography, &c. Books, charts, maps, engravings relating to geography and hydrography, will be provided for consultation in a reading-room, and a lecture theatre will be built for oral instruction and information. It is proposed to carry out the scheme by a company of shareholders, and the temporary committee calculate that the admission fee of one shilling, as at present, will secure a dividend of at least eight per cent., the surplus to be devoted to the promotion of geographical science, as the proprietors may determine. Such an institute, if judiciously organised, might be made a most useful place both for popular instruction and for scientific and professional reference. Voyagers and travellers would have facilities for examining and comparing maps and charts, while the lecture-room would diffuse a popular taste for geographical knowledge, in which it is so important for a maritime and commercial nation, with vast colonial possessions, to excel.

The obituary of the week contains the death of Dr. George Butler, Dean of Peterborough, formerly Head Master of Harrow School. Dr. Butler was one of the best scholars and most accomplished men of his time. At college he was senior wrangler and Smith's prizeman, Mr. Copley, afterwards Lord Lyndhurst, in both cases being his second. He succeeded Dr. Drury in the Harrow head-mastership. After his retirement from the school, he was for many years rector of a rural parish, till he received from the late Sir Robert Peel the Deanery of Peterborough. Besides being distinguished as a classical scholar, Dr. Butler was a first-rate linguist and

mathematician, and in chemistry, natural philosophy, and other departments of science, his attainments were considerable. Excelling also as a musician, and in knowledge and taste for the fine arts, Dr. Butler was remarkable for varied and versatile talents. He died in his eightieth year.

Louis Tieck has, we are sorry to announce, just died at Berlin, aged 80. He was not only the contemporary, but the rival of Schiller and Goethe, and his name is not unworthy to be linked with theirs. His poetical and prose works are very numerous, but perhaps the principal of them are 'Der gestiefelte Kater,' 'Fantasus,' 'Rothkehlchen,' 'Die heilige Genoveva,' 'Der Blaubart,' and 'Victoria Accorombona.' Though Prussian by birth, he passed the greater part of his life at Dresden; and, in addition to his literary labours, distinguished himself by his extraordinary skill as a reader. Royal and aristocratic audiences used to assemble to hear him read with as much enthusiasm as they would have done to hear a first-rate cantatrice. Of late years he resided in Berlin, and enjoyed a liberal pension from the king. Goethe once said, in a discussion as to the merits of different authors, "I feel myself greater than Tieck, but I am immeasurably inferior to Shakespeare!"

Professor Aytoun delivered yesterday, at Willis's Rooms, before a select audience of *litterati*, among whom we were glad to welcome home Mr. Thackeray, the first of his series of Lectures on Poetry and Dramatic Literature. His style is measured and pleasing, and some of his illustrations were given with a refinement and poetic fire that we have rarely seen equalled. In his description of the artificial school of poetry towards the close of the last century, as exemplified by the writings of Pope and Dr. Blacklock, Professor Aytoun introduced some happy touches of the kind of pleasantry for which his 'Lays' are distinguished. His most striking points were the description of the first and greatest poet, Homer, and the recitation of some stanzas from an early Anglo-Saxon poem, 'The Death Song of Regner Lodbrog.'

Scotch papers announce that the Professorship of Geology in the Queen's College, Cork, vacant by the appointment of Professor Nicol to the chair in Aberdeen, has been conferred on Robert Harkness, Esq., of Dumfries. In the medical school connected with King's College, Aberdeen, the Rev. Mr. Longmuir has been appointed Lecturer on Natural History, including Geology, which is now for the first time to be taught at that institution. We omitted last week to mention that the Rev. Mr. Thomson, Fellow and Tutor of Trinity, has been elected Regius Professor of Greek, in room of the late Professor Scholefield.

Treaties for the mutual protection of literary property are gradually becoming more numerous; and it is easy to see that the day is not distant at which they will exist, as they ought to do, between all civilised nations. To do the government of the French Emperor justice, it has made great efforts to bring about this grand result. To the states with which it has already concluded such treaties, must, the 'Moniteur' tells us, now be added the Duchy of Nassau, and the Principality of Reuss; and we hear that one will soon be concluded with Portugal.

An author named Steckfress, of Berlin, has just been condemned by the criminal tribunal of that city to six months' imprisonment, for having, in a work on the French Revolution, violated the penal code, by representing in a favourable light acts forbidden by the laws.

A meeting is to be held on Wednesday, at the apartments of the Royal Society in Somerset House, for the purpose of appointing a deputation to present to Her Majesty's Government the Memorial which has been lately signed in favour of the juxtaposition of the Scientific Societies.

The characteristic features of this year's Exhibition of the Royal Academy may be briefly pointed out. On the whole, it displays no unusual or extraordinary amount of excellence; and as to the productions of individuals, it is marked by that ebb and flow of progress, those alternate advances and

retrogressions, which seem to be inseparable from the artist's career. If we discover failures, where tradition and fame would lead us to expect them least, we are gratified, on the other hand, by successful sallies in unexpected quarters, and find enough to atone in these novelties for the disappointment of expectation. Of the principal pictures we have already spoken, (*ante*, p. 407.) In landscape it is impossible not to be struck with the absence of all romantic art; the poetical and imaginative style has clearly vanished for a season, under the combined effects of pre-Raffaellite influence and the increasing use of photographic agents. Turner's style would seem to have been forgotten, at least it is unattempted, and its very spirit is neglected, in favour of the careful delineation of ferns and leaves, foxgloves and lilies. This may, after all, be only a temporary sacrifice, to be followed by a great gain, for assuredly a reaction must some day come in favour of appeals to the fancy, that faculty over which art has the greatest control. The gigantic size of Mr. Anthony's *Monarch Oak* (480) is the best illustration of these remarks: as assuredly the square feet of foliage and weeds there displayed will rivet every eye at the moment of entrance, whilst the thought will perhaps strike every one that the expenditure of labour and material has been much disproportioned to the subject. It is still Sir C. Landseer who is second to none in the peculiar domain of genius which, along with powerful objective truth, gives the mind and fancy room to expand, and suggests and opens thought. He is the interpreter of nature, who bids us gaze upon her for ourselves, not her showman, who lets us behold nothing but himself. Witness the effect of the *Children of the Mist* (170), even in a more striking degree than the *Night and Morning*, already described by anticipation ('*La G.*' p. 407), scenes which are yet masterpieces of knowledge, power, thought, and execution. We would particularly notice in the latter the life-like appearance of the hair of the fox as compared with the fur of the dead animals, an effect in nature which few would notice, and still fewer have the power to represent. C. Stanfield's important picture of *The Victory towed into Gibraltar* (57) will be popular alike from its subject as its grand execution; and the *Scene in the Pyrenees* (325) presents a contrast of dark foreground and snowy mountain ridge behind, which is at once brilliant and natural. Amongst the novel phenomena of the present occasion, however, is a work by the celebrated German of Rome, Overbeck, *The Incredulity of St. Thomas* (36), remarkably illustrative of that style which appears, by common consent, to take the lead throughout Europe as the exponent of religious sentiment, whilst, as was remarked by the Chevalier Bunsen, at the Academy dinner, a contrast is presented in the English work of J. P. Knight (192) of no unfavourable character. For simplicity the latter possesses variety; for traditional formality, a high amount of artistic arrangement. The foreign work is impressive, but it is also ascetic: the English central figure suffers in point of dignity, but the scene has more of human life in its composition. David Roberts once more impresses us with the fulness and freedom of his powers, and his consummate mastery of drawing, in his *Venice* (191) and *St. Stephen's, Vienna* (89), in the unaffected and characteristic sketch, *A Street in Verona* (390), and in the somewhat romantic and mannered view of *Bethlehem* (536), in all which there is little novelty, but no lack of accustomed skill. Mr. Lee's landscapes again rise to the standard of former excellence, as in the instances (35) and (109); whilst the Highland scenery, *Lock Elvie* (245), has lost some of those gloomy features which have often marked it hitherto. Mr. Witherington's landscape has also put on a gay and fuller aspect, a merit which is most signally deficient in Creswick's thin, sad, and cold picture, misnamed *The Happy Spring Time* (375). A fine *Head of a Scribe* (143) is contributed by J. H. Herbert, and of Mr. Cope's pictures, *The Page* (479) is far more attractive than the *Othello* (174), the hands of which alone are a fatal deformity.

Mr. Ward's pictures have been already announced to our readers; the uneasiness of colour is the fault which universal verdict has pronounced as an exception to their otherwise distinguished merits. Occasion was also taken (p. 407) to introduce with the warmest commendations the contributions of Mr. Frank Stone, in which our readers will, we doubt not, heartily join. The varied and sparkling beauty of the group (333) is, if possible, exceeded by the delicate grace of the *Nile-flower* (113); and the scene from Scripture (478) presents an advance in the region of high art which is a welcome and important ornament to the Exhibition. Among the numerous works of the remaining Academicians and Associates there is little above the average rate of production. Mr. Jones's *Battle of Waterloo* (224) attracts crowds of visitors, and for many a day will be inaccessible for the purposes of due observation; no less do Mr. Millais's pictures, already described, collect a multitude of admirers. This rising artist displays fresh accessions of skill and resource, and it is evident that few subjects are beyond the capacity of his pencil. At the same time symptoms of a decline in the more marked and offensive features of the pre-Raffaellite school are plainly perceptible, and its influences, as has been observed, are acquiring a more wholesome tendency. Besides the works of Charles Landseer, Cooke, Goodall, and Solomon, mentioned in our former notice, Mr. Elmore's scene of *Queen Blanche and Louis IX.* (320) is striking for richness of costume and dramatic effect, which tend a little to the theatrical, but display great energy. Mr. Dobson appears with several sacred subjects of no inferior merit, and Mr. Sant's head of *Samuel* (507) has a remarkable force and power of expression. Among the portraits, Desanges' *Lady Bolton* (138) is one of the most brilliant, and a series by Grant are in his usual style of excellence. Mr. Knight's portrait of *Mr. George Dawson* (429) is at once distinguished for its success. A *Portrait of a Lady* (464), by D. Y. Blakiston, presents considerable merits; and among the works of foreign artists, a portrait of *Mrs. Charles Rigby* (401) by M. F. Remde, the court painter at Weimar, represents a very beautiful subject in a pose of much elegance, together with very careful and elaborate painting.

The Exhibition of Drawings and Sketches of Amateur Artists of this year falls nowise short of the promise of the three former seasons, though more than one of the best amateur artists of past years does not exhibit any production for this year. There are, however, a considerable number who appear this season for the first time, and we gladly hope that in future years many not yet exhibiting may be induced to do so. With this feeling we are grateful to Mr. Pocock for the trouble he has taken in bringing together these works of art, and bid him 'God speed' in the exertions he may make for the future. In a collection of 402 drawings, of which scarcely one deserves the appellation of bad, it is not easy to select the best. We propose, however, to group them in classes, and to notice those ladies and gentlemen whose works, taken as a whole, appear to us the most deserving of remark. 1. Landscapes. We consider that, without any question, two exhibited by Mrs. Bridgeman Simpson are the gems of the whole collection. The first (39) is a beautiful drawing of the well-known view of *Ætna from the Greek Theatre of Taormina*. The second (189), a very highly-finished picture of *Monte Pellegrino, at Palermo*. Miss Roget has two excellent and faithful sketches of *Ilfracombe* (34, 43). Few have given with more grace and truth the character of the hill (Hillsborough) which hangs over this little port. Mr. Nicholson (3, 12, 167) and Mr. Elwes (154, 171, 193, 206) maintain the reputation they had acquired in former years, and those who have had the good fortune to witness the beautiful scenes of 154 and 171 will know how faithfully the artist has portrayed the mountains of Madeira. In the catalogue it may be observed that some blunder has been made in the description of the last sketch; it is called *Two Days from Cairo*; it is a careful treatment of a very difficult subject—the view of the town and bay of Funchal

from above the Convent of Nossa Señora del Monte. Mr. Morley (80, 148) and Mr. Halliday (31) exhibit drawings of good promise. Lieut. Tower, R.N. (61, 275) shows great ability. The former (61) is a remarkable panoramic view of *Granada*, on four sheets joined together; the colouring is a little tame, but is, perhaps, that of the locality. A view of *The Alhambra*, by R. Ford, Esq. (96), in a very different style, is cleverly executed. Mrs. Carew Midmay exhibits a drawing (42) in which the character of Scotch mountain scenery is admirably given; and Miss Crompton (104, 201, 265) three drawings, in which that of *Ireland* is kept with equal faithfulness. Mrs. Russell Gurney's *Cloisters of Hereford Cathedral* (93), Miss Sorell's *Mont Orgueil* (225), Mr. Escott's various sketches (186, 194, 246), and Captain Northey's finished drawing (365), make us hope that they may be found among the exhibitors of a future year. Lady Susan Harcourt (267, 287, 384) preserves the fame which her published sketches of Madeira scenery have won for her. Sir R. Levinge, Bart., might have spared the Exhibition his '*Recollections of a Mouse Deer*'. 2. Compositions and Portrait Sketches are perhaps not so numerous this year as on former occasions. There are, however, some excellent specimens—Mrs. D'Eyncourt (33) exhibits the freedom of hand we have so often admired before. Captain Lumley's sketch (2) is clever, as are Miss Bicknell's (103), Miss Severn's (57, 70, 115), and Mr. Severn's (176, 390). Both these latter artists show progress since they last exhibited—115 is a very faithful delineation of the bright intellectual countenance so often seen among the peasantry of the south of Ireland. No. 176 very happily expresses the rising of the mist in a highland valley. Mr. Halliday's *Love lies Bleeding* (346) is cleverly executed, though we are slightly at a loss how to understand his description of his picture. *Uncle Toms and Evass* abound, till we are sick of them. 3. Interiors, &c. There are some excellent specimens of this class of subjects. One of the best is that by Mr. Morley (80), to which we have already alluded. Others, by Miss Cust (110), Miss Bedingfield (134), Miss F. Cust (146), are worthy of exhibition. We think, however, that those by Miss Bedingfield are too highly coloured. 4. There are few Oils or Pencil Drawings, but what there are, are good. One, in pencil, by Captain Cowell, of *Venice* (28), strikes us as peculiarly clear and well done. Another, by Captain Northey (138), creates a regret that one so capable of using it should have exhibited no other specimen of his pencil. In Oil—Captain Lumley's *Sketch from Nature* (179) is one of the cleverest pieces in the whole collection; and Miss Boddington's (55) *Landes de Bayonne* will be readily recognised by those who have travelled through that wild district. There are some fair specimens of those uninteresting things—dead game—which are drawn, as well as they can be, by Miss Smith (54), Mrs. Yorke (7), Mrs. Dunbar (83), and Miss Every (280); and there are the usual proportion of flowers, wild and tame, intermingled with fruit. We rejoice to see the original *Sketches on the Danube*, made by the coxswain of the *Water Lily* (400), which the published engravings express but inadequately; and some amusing drawings from the pencil of the Rev. Edward Bradley (395), and Mr. Alfred Thompson (399). Before concluding this notice we must add a word of protest against the inartistic mode in which many of the sketches are framed and arranged. Subjects the most incongruous in character and colouring are grouped together, and many delicate drawings, which, had they been arranged with more congenial companions, would have looked charming, are wholly extinguished by the glaring brightness of their neighbours.

The exhibition of Photographic pictures at the Photographic Institution, Bond-street, is a very considerable advance upon the collection of photographs exhibited a few months since at the rooms of the Society of Arts. The pictures are not so numerous, but they have been selected with much judgment, and really show us what the art is capable of. We have examples of the ordinary calotype on paper, of the waxed paper, and of the

collodion processes, and the peculiar excellences and defects are shown of each particular style. The reader of Mrs. Radcliffe, the admirer of Otway, or of the bard who "stood in Venice on the Bridge of Sighs—a palace and a prison on each hand," may study with delight the beautiful productions of Bresolin, where the Bridge of the Rialto and the Venetian palaces appear "sleeping on their shadows" in the waters of the still canals. We can scarcely venture to allow ourselves to find a fault in these productions, but we think they would have pleased us more if they had been less white than they are, which in contrast with the deep shadows is not quite agreeable. Florence is brought home to the untravelling Englishman in the photographs of Blanquet-Evrard, while F. Martens, Ferrier, Le Gray, and Le Secq, give us some charming studies from Paris and the rural districts of France. Of two or three of the productions of M. Martens we cannot but say a few words. A *Rock Scene* is a pre-Raffaellite study, the weathering of the rocks themselves, and the moss and ivy creeping in full luxuriance over their surfaces and clinging in the fissures, are full of natural beauty. The Castle of Chillon appears redolent of poetry, the old walls, stern as the dungeons they enclose, throw their shadows in the waters of the lake, and all around is 'quiet as a nun.' There is air and distance in this picture; and one might read the 'Prisoner of Chillon' with increased delight with the photograph in view. There are some other views by the same artist which are excellent in their way. Amongst our English photographers we recognise the works of Owen, Rosling, Buckle, Bingham, Fenton, Horne, and Shaw. Our space will not allow of our examining these in detail, as we could desire; yet present varieties of the photographic art which are well worthy an attentive study. Mr. Fenton exhibits a number of views taken in Moscow and at St. Petersburg, which show the advantages of the waxed paper process. Mr. Hugh Owen has some most remarkable interiors, the aisles of Redcliffe Church, Bristol, have much interest to all to whom the name of Chatterton is known, and as photographs they show the power of the art. Mr. Buckle and Mr. Rosling are minute and true, yet we think something would be gained in artistic value if more breadth of effect was attempted by these in every way skilful photographers. Mr. Cundall has some sweet little bits from the 'quiet homes of England,' and the works of Mr. Sherlock, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Cooke, show that the photographic tablet is capable of receiving impressions of considerable beauty from the subdued light which is radiated from the leaves of the forest tree. Mr. De la Motte, the proprietor of the Institution, exhibits a great number of his own works, nearly all of them, we believe, obtained by the collodion process. Amongst these we would point attention to the doorway of *Lichfield Cathedral* and to the *Boy in the Arch*. The details in these pictures are exquisitely preserved, and that, too, without the annoying appearance of sharp lines; distinct and clear as everything is, there is still a most harmonious blending of the whole. *Kenilworth Castle* is a magical little bit of light and shade, by Mr. De la Motte, proving the capabilities of his process to deal with a more extensive range of subjects than it has hitherto been commonly applied to. There are many other pictures of much interest, to which we cannot more particularly allude. We recommend our readers, however, to pay a visit to the Photographic Institution, and see for themselves with how much truth the solar pencil can delineate the objects which it illuminates.

The famous tomb of Napoleon the Great, in the dome of the Hôtel des Invalides, is now nearly completed. It has been executed by M. Visconti, the well-known architect, and is embellished with statues and bas-reliefs by Pradier and other noted sculptors. It is in porphyry and marble, and is a magnificent structure. It has cost not less than 240,000*l.*, and has taken twelve years to complete. But now that it is finished, it is—to be taken down—his present Imperial Majesty having reflected that it is not becoming that the "august

founder of his dynasty" should repose in the Invalides, when the old kings of France were buried in the Abbey of Saint Denis, and having accordingly resolved that his body shall be removed to that abbey, and a tomb be erected for him there. The celebrated Obelisk of Luxor is also to be removed from the Place de la Concorde to the courtyard of the Louvre.

Picture sales by auction still continue very frequent in Paris. The most recent one of importance is that of the unsold pictures, some of them not quite completed, the drawings and designs, the costumes, collections of arms, &c., of the celebrated artist Decamps. The paintings, consisting of 23 works, produced 2863*l.*; the drawings and designs, 188 in number, 856*l.*; the arms, costumes, and curiosities, 713*l.*—in all 4432*l.* The principal paintings were,—*Joshua causing the Sun to Stand Still*, which fetched 340*l.*; *Job and his Friends*, which went at 280*l.*; *A Female Wood Gatherer in Winter*, 160*l.*; *Interior of a Court*, 162*l.*; and *Boys Leaving School in Turkey*, 125*l.* The three former are not quite finished. Some of the drawings and designs fetched very high prices; that of *Joshua and the Sun* went at 212*l.*; one of *Christ before Pilate*, at 54*l.*; and those of one of the artist's works called *Samson*, at 64*l.*

An engraving of much interest has just been published by Messrs. Graves and Co., entitled *The Arctic Council*. It is from a painting by Mr. Stephen Pearce, now exhibiting at the Royal Academy, and the likenesses of the veteran navigators are striking. Seated at a table is that invaluable officer of the public service, Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, and around him are grouped Sir John Richardson, Sir James Clark Ross, Sir Edward Parry, Sir George Back, Captain Beechey, Captain Bird, Captain Hamilton, Colonel Sabine, and Mr. John Barrow, and all are earnestly discussing, with the aid of charts and other papers, the question of the Franklin search. On the wall are pictures of Sir John Franklin and Captain Fitzjames, and of the late Sir John Barrow. A great deal of taste has been used in the expression and arrangement of the faces, and all who feel an interest in the trying and grateful labours of these men, will doubtless gladly avail themselves of the opportunity of possessing this pleasing memorial.

The Committee for the Memorial to the late Dr. Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln, have announced resolutions for the disposal of the funds, in placing a recumbent figure of the Bishop in Caen stone, and a painted memorial window, in the Cathedral of Lincoln. Any surplus will be appropriated to some charitable or educational purpose.

Mr. Atkinson has just completed his engraving from Harvey's picture, *Quitting the Manse*, upon which he has been engaged for upwards of two years; and Mr. Lucy has completed his picture of *Nelson in his Cabin writing his Will*, which left Horatia to the care of his country.

Messrs. Grieve and Telbin, of the Gallery of Illustration, Regent-street, are preparing a new set of views to illustrate the over-sea route to India.

At the Royal Italian Opera, on Tuesday, the first performance of *Maria di Rohan* was the occasion of two *débâts*, that of Mlle. Albini as *Maria*, and of Mlle. Nantier Didiée as *Armando di Gondi*. Mlle. Nantier Didiée gave promise of her being an acquisition to the London Opera as a fair contralto singer, but the engagement of Mlle. Albini as a *prima donna* was not justified by her first appearance, though her voice is a soprano of pleasing quality. Ronconi's performance as *Enrico* was a masterpiece of dramatic art as well as vocal skill, and it is by the manner he sustains this character that the whole opera has so long retained a higher position than it otherwise deserves. *Lucrezia Borgia*, with Grisi, Mario, and Ronconi, was on Thursday yet more enthusiastically received, though Mlle. Didiée was scarcely equal to the part of *Orsini*. The finale of the second act was an astonishing *tour de force*.

The fourth of the Philharmonic Concerts for the season, on Monday evening, presented novelties in

the production of a manuscript sinfonia of Cherubini, and of a violoncello concerto by Herr Molique. The sinfonia, the only orchestral work of Cherubini, was written for the Philharmonic Society when he was in London, and is now for the first time brought forward. The general feeling was, that it is inferior to his operatic overtures, and to his works in other departments; and it will not probably be reproduced. Herr Molique's piece was admirably given by Piatti, and confirmed his reputation as an able composer. The other most notable pieces of the programme were Beethoven's pastoral symphony, Weber's overture to *Euryanthe*, Beethoven's pianoforte concerto in E flat, played by M. Charles Hallé, and Mendelssohn's march in *Athalie*. Mrs. Endersohn and Herr Staudigl were the vocalists of the evening.

At Miss Fitzwilliam's concert on Monday, a rich entertainment of popular music was given by Madame Doria, Herr Staudigl, Herr Pauer, Mr. Benson, and others, and a smart ballad, sung with vivacity by the beneficiare, entitled 'The Cantorier,' was warmly encored.

At Mr. Aguilar's annual concert on Wednesday, a new trio, of his own composition, for piano, violin, and violoncello, was effectively executed by M. Vieuxtemps, Hausmann, and the composer.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—April 20th.—Prof. E. Forbes, President, in the chair. R. Death, Esq., and A. Phillips, Esq., were elected Fellows. The following communications were read:—1. 'On the Structure and Succession of the Lower Palæozoic Rocks of South Wales and part of Shropshire,' by Prof. Ramsay, F.G.S. By means of sections constructed on a scale of six inches to a mile, vertically and horizontally, the Harlech grits were shown to be about 7000 feet thick. The Lingula flags that overlie them are also 7000 feet thick. These are overlaid on the north flanks of Cader Idris and the Arans by about 3000 feet of calcareo-felspathic ashes and conglomerates interstratified with slates. Above these lie the porphyries of the Arans, &c., originally sheets of felspathic lava that flowed abroad in the Lower Silurian sea-bottom. Between the Dolgell and Bala Road, and the summit of Aran Mowddwy, nearly the whole thickness of the Lingula flags, ashes and porphyry, is exposed in unbroken succession, and on the north-west side of the road the same beds are repeated by a great fault that runs from a point six miles south-west of Chester through Bala Lake, to Cardigan Bay. It has been traced for sixty-five miles. Where crossed by one of the sections it is a downthrow of about 12,500 feet on the north-west, the trap of Aran Mowddwy being thrown down against the base of the Lingula beds. The Bala limestone was shown to be 6000 feet above the Aran traps; and 8000 feet above that the Caradoc sandstone, which is 5000 feet thick, appears. The igneous series of the Arans is continuous as far as Moel-wyn, where it is succeeded by the Bala beds, in which series, 6000 feet above the Moel-wyn traps, a second volcanic set of ashes and porphyries appears. These constitute the Snowdonian series, and some of its beds are the equivalents of the Bala limestone, a fact proved both by measurement and fossils. The igneous rocks of Snowdon have heretofore been considered as the equivalents of those of the lower series. They are at least 6000 feet higher. The lower set closed the Lingula flag period, the upper set are in the middle of the Bala beds. The intrusive bosses of Caernarvon, Lley, and Anglesea were then shown to be of older Silurian date, and the deep-seated melted nuclei from whence the contemporaneous volcanic rocks proceeded. Also the metamorphism and foliation of some of the rocks of Caernarvonshire and Anglesea took place in Lower Silurian times. The Cambrian rocks of the Longwynd were then shown to be 26,000 feet thick, and conformably overlaid by 14,000 feet of Llanddilo flags, giving 40,000 feet in all. They are not much altered. Their base is cut off by a fault. This district formed a bold island in the midst of the Wenlock sea, and, being gradually submerged,

was gradually encased in Wenlock shale; and a set of beds that successively formed the margin of the Wenlock shale sea at different levels were sandy and pebbly beaches of the Wenlock period, although their fossils have a Caradoc aspect. Lastly, some of the lowest conglomerates of the Cambrian strata of Llanberis were shown to have been formed of the waste of an old land, now entirely lost, containing rocks similar to those of North Wales as it now stands. 2. Mr. Jukes gave a short description of two quarries at Great Burr, South Staffordshire, in which there are small exposures of Caradoc sandstone. 3. 'On the Silurian Rocks of Kirkcudbright Bay,' by R. Harkness, Esq. The author pointed out in this paper that the Upper Silurian rocks of Balnakeil, &c., were separable from the neighbouring greywacke rocks, which are regarded as Lower Silurian, both by the evidence of their fossils and by their lithological and geognostical conditions.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL.—April 13th.—Annual general meeting. S. R. Solly, F.R.S., F.S.A., V.P., in the chair. The Report of the auditors for the past year was read, by which it appeared that the receipts had amounted to 455l. 16s., and the payments to 487l. 8s. 9d., leaving the Society debtor to the Treasurer in the sum of 31l. 12s. 9d., but this amount embraced payments for illustrations of the Journal not yet employed, and left no amount unpaid. Sixteen associates had been lost in the year by death, and two correspondents. Twenty-eight had also withdrawn, whilst forty-four associates and three correspondents had been elected. The Council had been under the necessity of removing sixteen associates who had failed to pay their subscriptions. An additional Secretary was appointed, and the Rev. T. Hugo, M.A., F.S.A., unanimously chosen. The Officers and Council for the ensuing year were then elected, and Mr. Pettigrew read some very interesting notices of the deceased members, particularly recording the papers they had communicated to the Association. These notices were by acclamation voted to be printed in the Journal. The Society then dined together according to custom.

April 27th.—S. R. Solly, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A., V.P., in the chair. Eight additional associates were announced, making the number admitted in the present year already forty in amount. Various presents were announced. The Rev. Mr. Hugo exhibited two ancient rings, one of bronze, found in a field near Taunton, Somersetshire, the other of silver, with a device of two hands joined, and an intervening inscription. This was a betrothal ring, and had been in the possession of the late Provost of Eton. The bronze ring was considered to be as early as the tenth, the latter of the early part of the fifteenth century. Dr. Lee exhibited some very interesting antiquities from Hartwell Museum. They consisted of a fashioned stone found at the Roman encampment near Biggleswade. By some it was conjectured to be a bone, by others a pestle, whilst the most probable appeared to be that it was for sharpening and bevelling the flint celts, to which it seemed peculiarly adapted. Other Roman remains, beads, &c., were also exhibited, obtained from the same locality. Dr. Lee also exhibited various spear heads and celts, recently obtained from Sweden, and belonging to the stone period. An animated discussion took place as to the character and purposes of these instruments. Mr. H. Syer Cuming read a paper 'On Bronze Celts,' illustrated by a variety of specimens. Mr. Cuming contended that the term celt was derived from the old Latin word *Celtæ*, a graving tool; and the Vulgate (Job xix. 24) has *cette sculptantur in silice*. This paper will appear *in extenso* in the Journal. The remainder of the evening was occupied by Mr. Lott in the reading of a very curious paper relating to city antiquities, drawn from the records of Allhallows. At the next meeting it was announced that the Rev. Mr. Gourrier would read a paper 'On Palæography.'

ANTIQUARIES.—April 28th.—John Payne Collier, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Presents of various books

were announced, and the Prince of Syracuse's letter, acknowledging his election as an Honorary Member of the Society, was read to the meeting. Mr. Henry Hill, Mr. Bernard Woodward, the Rev. Joseph Goodall, and Mr. Frederick C. Lukis, were balloted for and severally elected Members. The ballots were also taken for Herr Joseph Arneith of Vienna, Herr Edward Gerhard of Berlin, and for the Abate Fusco of Naples, as Honorary Members, when those gentlemen were declared duly elected. Mr. B. Williams exhibited a drawing of the 'Couronne de lumière' of the celebrated candelabrum at Aix la Chapelle. Mr. W. M. Wylie exhibited a gutta percha impression from the very fine seal of the town of Colchester, in Essex. It is of large size, and bears on one side a Gothic screen, with the figure of a woman crowned and clasping with both hands a cross calvary. In smaller niches are the figures of angels displaying shields, and above is the bust of Christ holding the Gospels, his right hand giving the benediction. The other side of the seal has the representation of a castle with towers and turrets. This fine specimen of art is probably of the time of Edward the Fourth, when that monarch granted a new charter to the town of Colchester. The Rev. Thomas Hugo exhibited two fibule of the later Roman period, found a short time since, during some excavations at Mile-end. The conclusion of Mr. Pryce's memoir on the church of Saint Mary Redcliffe was then read. The writer shows, by careful examination of the evidence, that tradition alone, unsupported by documents, has ascribed the foundation of that structure to Simon de Burton; that the oldest portions were erected at least forty years earlier; and that the construction of those parts of the building usually ascribed to the Canynges was not confined to them, but aided by the contributions of others who joined them in the pious work. Mr. Winter Jones, of the British Museum, contributed some observations on the division of man's life into stages. Several writers of antiquity, from the days of Solon, had adopted this division of man's career through life, and though some had defined as many as ten periods, all agreed essentially. It was reserved, however, for Shakespeare to embody the idea in a poetic form, with which all are familiar. Mr. Jones had been led to make this communication in consequence of the recent acquisition by the trustees of the British Museum of a very rare and curious impression from a wood-block, representing the seven ages of man, in a series of quaint figures in the costume of the middle of the fifteenth century.

NUMISMATIC.—April 28th.—The Lord Londesborough, President, in the chair. The chairman exhibited an unique denarius of Germanicus, having on the reverse a figure of Germanicus, as imperator, crowning Artaxias, with the inscription, GERMANICVS ARTAXIAS; Mr. C. Roach Smith, a new type, in gold, of Eppillus, found near Margate; Mr. Evans, a fine specimen of Cunobelin, found at Nottingham; and Mr. J. G. Pfister, a fine medal of Cosmo de Medici. The last is a very beautiful specimen of the Italian art of the period; it was made by the celebrated Florentine artist, Donatello, in 1464, and displays on the obverse a bust of Cosmo, and on the reverse a female figure (Florentia), seated and holding an olive branch, with the legend PAX LIBERTASQVE PVBLICA. Mr. R. S. Poole and Mr. Hercules Akerman were unanimously elected Fellows of the Society. Mr. J. Y. Akerman, F.S.A., in a letter to Lord Londesborough, called attention to a new type of a half-penny of Edward III., which he exhibited, the peculiarity of this piece being the Privy marks which the moneyer has placed upon it. Mr. Webster, in a paper communicated by Mr. Bergne, gave a new and curious illustration of the monogram on the coins of Egbert (Ruding, pl. 14, Nos. 2, 3.) Observing that it is very similar in form to that on the coins of Charlemagne, Mr. Webster suggests that it is incorrect to read it, as has been usual hitherto, DOROB. c. as though it had been struck at Dover, and that it is, in all probability, nothing more than a cypher, containing the monarch's name. Mr. Vaux read a paper on a

'Collection of Ancient Coins of Ceylon,' lately brought from that island by Sir Emerson Tennent, Bart. Mr. Vaux pointed out that, in this collection, which numbers about eighty coins, specimens exist of the money of all the Rajahs but one, which have been hitherto met with. The coins themselves are in excellent preservation and perfectly legible. They have the appearance of having been rather a curious fact in numismatology, that, while the neighbouring continent of India teems with specimens of coinage under different races and rulers, from the period of its commencement, about the third century B.C. to the present day, in Ceylon, on the contrary, the native coinage yet discovered is limited to the reigns of seven or eight princes, between A.D. 1050 and A.D. 1320. The inscriptions on these coins are in the Devanagari or Sanscrit character, and analogous in form to those discovered upon rocks in the same island. Mr. Vaux stated his belief that the so-called *Fish-hook money*, some pieces of which have been found in Ceylon, have no claim whatever to be considered part of the local currency of that island, as the portions of inscriptions generally traceable upon them are invariably in the Arabic and not in the Sanscrit character.

ZOOLOGICAL.—April 26th.—Dr. Gray, V. P., in the chair. Dr. Crisp directed the attention of the meeting to the mesentery of the Lump Fish, comparing it with the mesentery of the *Boa Constrictor*, *Uromastix spinipes*, and *Iguana tuberculata*. Dr. Crisp proceeded to make some observations on the peculiar structure of the *Caprimulgidae*, which were illustrated by elaborate drawings on an enlarged scale, and by dissections of the European species. Mr. Gould exhibited a collection of the nests of Humming Birds, exemplifying the habitual characteristic structure of several genera. The first group to which his remarks were directed were the Hermit Birds (*Phaethornis*), who invariably build at the extremity of leaves, perhaps from the protection which that situation affords against the attack of monkeys and other predatory animals. *Oreotrochilus* builds a beautiful nest attached to the side of a rock. *Helimastor meoleucus* makes a nest in a beautiful species of moss of the genus *Usna*, depending from the trees of the Brazilian forest. Most of the nests are cup-shaped, some in forks, some in branches, some on leaves, some in ferns, shallow and delicately formed, ornamented in the most various manner with feathers, or with festoons of moss and of lichen, especially in the genus *Hylocharia*. The differences in the eggs of Humming Birds are not very observable, being invariably two in number, white and oblong, with one supposed exception—namely, a species inhabiting the Upper Amazon, which, according to Mr. Edwards, lays a spotted egg. But the difference of structure of the nests sufficiently corroborate the generic divisions into which these birds have been separated by modern ornithologists. The attachment of the lichen and other ornaments is effected by the use of fine cobwebs. The humming birds generally place their nests in open situations, regardless of the intrusion of man, to which, however, the remote localities occupied by many of the species but little expose them. They have a little sharp note, which, although similar, has sufficient variety to enable the collectors to decide that they are within the range of a new species before they have seen it. Most of the nests exhibited were from the collection of Mr. Reeves of Rio, who presented them to Mr. Gould in the most liberal manner, with a view to assisting him in rendering his splendid monograph of this family as complete as possible.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—May 2nd.—Annual meeting. The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., F.R.S., in the chair. The Report of the Visitors on the state of the Institution during the year 1852 was read, together with the statement of accounts. The receipts during the past year amounted to 4640l. 17s. 3d., and the disbursements to 3570l. 8s. 7d., leaving a balance of 1070l. 8s. 8d.

The following gentlemen were elected as officers, &c., for the ensuing year:—*President*—The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., F.R.S. *Treasurer*—W. Pole, Esq., M.A., F.R.S. *Secretary*—Rev. J. Barlow, M.A., F.R.S. *Managers*—William Wilberforce Bird, Esq.; Sir John P. Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.; John Bate Cardale, Esq.; Captain Henry John Codrington, R.N.; George Dodd, Esq., M.P., F.S.A.; Sir Charles Fellows; J. P. Gassiot, Esq., F.R.S.; Aaron Asher Goldsmid, Esq.; Henry Bence Jones, M.D., F.R.S.; George Macilwain, Esq.; George Moore, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A.; Right Hon. Baron Parke; Frederick Pollock, Esq., M.A.; Joseph William Thrupp, Esq.; Col. Philip J. Yorke, F.R.S. *Visitors*—J. G. Appold, Esq.; J. J. Bigsby, M.D., F.G.S.; J. C. Burgoyne, Esq.; William Carpmal, Esq.; Alexander Crichton, Esq.; Thomas Davidson, Esq.; Edward M. Foxhall, Esq.; Sir John Hall, Bart., F.R.S.; John Hennen, M.D.; Edward Meryon, M.D.; John Carrick Moore, Esq., M.A., V.P. Geol. Soc.; William Roxburgh, M.D.; Rev. William Taylor, F.R.S.; Henry Twining, Esq.; Sir Richard R. Vyvyan, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., G.S. The thanks of the members were voted to the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and to the Committees of Managers and Visitors, and to Professor Faraday, for their valuable services to the Institution.

R. S. OF LITERATURE.—April 27th.—The Earl of Carlisle, President, in the chair. The chairman, as President, delivered his Annual Address, in which he congratulated the Members of the Society on its present prosperous state, and on the fact that while death or resignation had caused no vacancy in the list of Members during the last year, a considerable number of new Members had been elected during the same period. He gave an able and rapid summary of the chief subjects of interest which had been brought under the attention of the Society, in the different papers which had been read at its meetings,—adverting particularly to those by Mr. Watkiss Lloyd, Mr. Finlay, and Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, as evincing peculiar ability and research. He then alluded, in terms of great satisfaction, to the munificent donations of books presented to the Society during the past year by H. M. the King of Prussia and the Trustees of the British Museum respectively; the former of whom had sent to England, expressly for the use of the Society, a copy of Dr. Lepsius's great work on the monuments of Egypt, while the latter had forwarded a complete set of all the works published by them, including catalogues of the MSS., printed books, &c., with all the volumes, yet edited, of the 'Ancient Marbles preserved in the British Museum.' At the conclusion of the Address the Earl of Carlisle was re-elected as President for the ensuing year, and the ballot was taken for the new Council and Officers.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—April 25th.—Sir Roderick I. Murchison, President, in the chair. Viscount Gederich, M.P., the Duke of Wellington; Henry Bourne, C. Chidley Coote, I. M. Haldon, E. R. Simmons, George Smith, and H. S. Southey, Esqrs.; the Rev. D. Halkett and Dr. E. Irving, M.D., were elected Fellows. The President announced that the Council had awarded the two Gold Medals of the year to Mr. Francis Galton, for his valuable explorations in Southern Africa; and to Commander Edward Augustus Inglefield, R.N., for his recent Arctic survey in the *Isabel*, explaining that he deviated from the ordinary routine in making this announcement before the anniversary, because the last-mentioned Polar Medallist was about to depart on another Polar expedition. Sir Roderick therefore seized the opportunity of the presence of the gallant and enterprising Commander to express to him personally the gratification which all the members of the Council, as well as himself, had experienced in making their award. Commander Inglefield then returned thanks for the honour. The papers read were—1. 'Extracts from a Journal up the Koladyn River (Aracan),

with description of the scenery, topography, inhabitants, and products of the country.' By Captain S. R. Tickell, B.N.I., illustrated by very numerous and beautiful drawings. 2. 'Notes of an Excursion to the supposed Tombs of Ezekiel, and the Neighbourhood of the sacred cities of Najif and Kerbelah, through the Marshes west of the Euphrates.' By Thomas Kerr Lynch, Esq. Communicated by Colonel Rawlinson, C.B., F.R.G.S.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—Royal Institution, 2 p.m.—(Monthly Meeting.)
—Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(1. Dr. H. Rink, of Denmark, on the Large Continental Ice of Greenland, and the Origin of the Icebergs in the Arctic Seas; 2. The Mining Prospects of Greenland, by Mr. J. A. Lundt—communicated by Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., F.R.G.S.; 3. Account of the Jimma Country, in N. E. Africa—communicated by Sir J. Gardner Wilkinson, F.R.S., F.R.G.S.)
—London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Mr. Cowden Clarke, on Shakespeare.)
—School of Mines.—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(W. Carpmal, Esq., on the Electric Telegraph.)
—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ p.m.
—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(1. Discussion on the Chesil Bank, by Mr. J. Cooke; 2. Mr. C. W. Siemens, on the Conversion of Heat into Mechanical Effect; 3. Mr. J. Leslie, on Stirling's Air Engine; 4. Mr. C. Manby, on the Caloric Engine.)
—Zoological, 9 p.m.
—Syro-Egyptian, 7½ p.m.—(1. Miss Fanny Corbux, on the Physical Geography of the Exodus, finally Determined by a Reference to Recent Geological Changes; 2. Mr. Bonomi, a Short Account of the Discovery of the Greek MS. in the possession of Mr. Arden; 3. Mr. Sharpe, on the Trading Voyage on the Red Sea in the Time of Solomon.)
—School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
—Graphic, 8 p.m.
—Ethnological, 8½ p.m.—(1. Rev. A. W. Hanson, on the Languages of the Gold Coast; 2. Dr. W. Freund, on a MS. Grammar of the Quichua Language in the Royal Library at Berlin.)
—R. S. Literature, 4½ p.m.
—Archæological Association, 8½ p.m.
—School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
Thursday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. Frankland, on Technological Chemistry.)
—Royal, 8½ p.m.
—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
—London Institution, 7 p.m.—(Mr. Cowden Clarke, on Shakespeare.)
—Botanic Society's Gardens, 3 p.m.—(R. Bentley, Esq., on Plants in a State of Life or Action.)
—School of Mines.—(Chemistry, 11 a.m.)—(Mineralogy, 1 p.m.)—(Geology, 3 p.m.)
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(Professor E. Forbes, on some New Points in British Geology.)
—Astronomical, 8 p.m.
—Philological, 8 p.m.
—Department of Practical Art, 7 p.m.—(Professor E. Forbes, on Animal Forms—the Vertebrate Type.)
—School of Mines.—(Metallurgy, 11 a.m.)—(Natural History, 1 p.m.)—(Mining, 3 p.m.)
Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Faraday, on Static Electricity.)
—Medical, 8 p.m.
—Botanic, 4 p.m.
—Horticultural Society's Gardens, 1 p.m.—(Exhibition of Flowers and Fruit.)

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, May 4th.

WHEN Geronte, in Molière's comedy of *Le Médecin malgré lui*, remarks that he had always understood the heart to be on the left side, and the liver on the right, Sganarelle pompously replies, "Yes, it was so formerly, but nous avons changé tout cela!" A certain learned gentleman, Monsieur Emmanuel by name, has recently obtained considerable notoriety in this city, by attempting to make as sweeping and as radical a revolution in the science of astronomy as worthy Sganarelle did of his own authority in that of physiology. The earth, he says, turns from the east to the west, and not from the west to the east, as all astronomers have heretofore maintained; the rotation of the earth is accomplished in twenty-four hours precisely, instead of in twenty-three hours, fifty-six minutes, and some

seconds, as astronomers have heretofore supposed; and all the theories as to the attraction of the sun or the planets are entirely erroneous. The astronomical Sganarelle had the infatuated presumption to press these and other eccentric notions on the Academy of Sciences, and to endeavour to get a commission nominated to report on them; but M. Arago, M. de Liouville, and the other astronomers and mathematicians of that learned body, declined one after another to examine and report on them, lest it should be supposed for a moment that they take such strange crotchets *au sérieux*. This has greatly exasperated M. Emmanuel, and in his wrath he has belaboured M. Arago without mercy, in sundry lengthy letters, which one of the daily newspapers has been foolish enough to insert. But what is more singular is, that he has opened a course of lectures, in which he gravely teaches his astronomical heresies, and these lectures attract crowded, and, I am told, believing and admiring audiences. *Est natura hominum novitatis avida* may be a true enough maxim, but assuredly it is peculiarly and emphatically so of the French. Preach to them a new religion, and, however extravagant it be, it will find adepts; tell them, with Fourier, that it is possible to turn the sea into lemonade, and they will smack their lips with confidence; broach a new form of political government, which shall profess to have the miraculous virtue of securing a carriage and four, and roast pheasants *ad libitum*, for every man without labour or enterprise, and they will make a revolution to establish it; assure them that a branch of science which has occupied the mightiest intellects the world has produced, and which has been supported during the course of ages by observations and demonstrations of the most unquestionable kind, reposes on a false foundation, and they will hail you as a most wonderful *savant*, and will be ready to crucify all who may presume to express the slightest doubt of the exactitude of your discovery.

Reference has more than once been made in the 'Gazette' to the rage of the French for erecting statues to their distinguished men, or the men they are pleased to consider such. Undoubtedly nothing is more creditable to a people than to honour their illustrious characters in that way—it shows that they have intelligence to appreciate and gratitude to reward eminent merit;—but then it is absolutely essential that they should act with such discernment as to honour the greatly-deserving first and the less-deserving afterwards—and especially that they should not altogether neglect the former for the latter. Now this is precisely what the French have done. There is scarcely a provincial town which cannot boast of a statue to some *grand homme* or other; but Voltaire has no statue, and yet, as Byron said, he was "a great and universal genius," and certainly his works will endure as long as the French language itself, and it may be longer; Bossuet has no statue yet, though he is a burning and shining light both in the church and in literature; Madame de Sevigné has none, and yet she has left an immortal name as a letter-writer; Boileau has none, and yet he is to France what Pope is to England, and is moreover the acknowledged "legislator of (the French) Parnassus;" Blaise Pascal, I believe, has none, and yet he did more to form the French language than any other man, and has left works which, though small of volume, will assuredly never die. The list of the neglected might be extended, but when it consists of half-a-dozen of the most illustrious in the land, it is long enough. And that this is a stain on the nation, who will dispute? The cause of it, however, I think, may easily be seen on examining the roll of the immortals who have been executed in bronze or marble—it is the sad, lamentable, pitiable passion of the French for military glory. Thus colonels, and generals, and marshals, and admirals figure on the roll by dozens, as if the most glorious thing in the world were cuts with swords and pikes with bayonets.

Samson, of the Théâtre Français, took his 'retiring benefit' the other night, and a very good one it was, producing him somewhere between 600l.

and 800*l*. A retiring benefit has heretofore been understood, both in France and in England, to be the formal and definitive termination of an actor's career; but amidst so many changes as we see now-a-days, Samson saw no harm in *changeant cela*, so he took a retiring benefit without the slightest idea of retiring, and has since continued his ordinary service as if he had had no benefit at all. His withdrawal from the stage would no doubt be a great loss to it, as he is not only a very able comic actor, but almost the last of the good, careful, painstaking, accomplished old school of what the French call *les grandes traditions*—which school, though somewhat stilted, is immeasurably superior to anything the moderns have been able to produce. The metallic result of the benefit shows clearly the esteem in which he is held by the public; but it was even more strikingly displayed by the competition for tickets, and by the composition of the auditory. An additional charm was given to the performances by the appearance, for "positively that night only"—a fact, though asserted on the playbills—of Mdlle. Plessy, the successor of Mdlle. Mars, whose sudden flight to Russia excited considerable sensation some few years back. This lady, who is possessed both of talent and beauty, was once a great favourite with the Parisians; and though she offended them largely by her unceremonious decamping, they gave her a very friendly greeting. Two or three years ago, you will remember, she appeared at the St. James's Theatre, in London, where she fascinated and was admired; and if Mr. Mitchell could enlist her services at this moment she would doubtless attract largely.

Adolphe Adam, the most indefatigable of musical composers, has produced another opera since my last at the Théâtre Lyrique. It is, if I mistake not, the fourth or fifth new work we have had from him this season. It is called *Le Roi des Halles*, and is founded on some incidents in the troubled times of the Fronde. The music is of that light, easy character for which the author is noted, and is studded with charming *morceaux*; but on the whole, though it will not detract from, it will not exalt his reputation. The *libretto* to which it is tacked, written by Leuven and Brunswick, is execrable. These gentlemen seem to have thought that as several of their previous productions had been received with great favour, they were warranted in treating the public *sans cérémonie*. By the way, the musical fraternity are grumbling terribly against Adam, for, as they say, monopolising the Théâtre Lyrique. And it must be confessed that they are not altogether in the wrong. The Lyrique theatre was founded expressly for the production of the works of young composers, who are not able, from want of reputation, to gain access to the stage of the Opéra Comique or of the Grand Opéra. Now, Adolphe Adam can cause his pieces to be represented at either of those houses, and he by no means falls within the category of young or unknown.

His Imperial Majesty the Emperor has raised Rossini to the rank of Commander in the Legion of Honour, and Ponsard the poet to that of officer. The elevation of the Italian is a graceful tribute to genius—though probably the lazy fellow, who is so contemptuous of fame that he will write no more, will care little or nothing about it. The promotion of the Frenchman took place in this way:—as I told you in my last, a pension of 100*l*. a year had been offered to him by the Emperor's orders, and peremptorily refused. "But," said his friends to him, "you must take care what you are about, or you will deeply offend the Government. You have already declined a place of 240*l*. a year which it offered you—and now you reject a pension. Such refusals cannot be agreeable to it; and if offence be taken at them, you must expect that it will forbid the performance of your plays, or take other measures to ruin you. Ask, then, for something which, without laying you under pecuniary obligations, shall show that you do not want to insult those who are anxious to serve you." The reasoning appeared to Ponsard to be just, and he intimated to the powers that be, his willingness to receive a higher grade in the Legion of Honour.

Leipzig, April 23*th*.

THE great fair, called the 'Ostermesse,' which annually takes place here, has filled the town with a number of strangers from every part of the world. The Turk, the Armenian, the Polish Jew, in his long garb, and a beard apparently not even curtailed by a pair of scissors, the inhabitants of India and Peru, meet here in their national costume, and carry on their business in a sort of universal language. Every hotel is occupied, and most private houses have received a few guests. People who do not usually let apartments, try to spare a room or two at this time of the year, to let it to strangers during the fair, for they are sure to be well paid for it. The principal trade carried on in this place is that of the bookseller, and once a year they meet here from all parts of Germany, to settle their accounts together. They usually spend a fortnight in getting over their business, and every morning they meet in the exchange belonging to their trade, where they are sitting on small tables, their account-book before them, and around their neck a leather bag full of checks and bank-notes. The booksellers residing in Leipzig—and their number is not small—make it a point to invite their friends from abroad, and thus dinner parties and suppers take place every day. Often, too, they meet at some hotel, or some cellar—a subterranean restaurant—which is the fashion here as well as in other German towns of Hanseatic date, where they spend the evening drinking and smoking. The famous cellar, called 'Auerbach's Keller,' well-known to every reader of Goethe's 'Faust,' is still in existence, and several times lighted up throughout during the fair. The old room from which Faust escaped riding on a wine-tub, is the same as of old, and bears quite the appearance as represented on the stage. But it was too cold in it to allow the sitting down of guests at this time of the year, they therefore retired to an adjacent room, where unfortunately three girls sat with their harps to do away with all illusion of the past. The present landlord of this cellar pays an annual rental of about 200*l*. for it, and the owner of the house to which these subterranean passages belong, derives an income of 18,000 thalers from it. Leipzig is a mercantile town, and though it has a university well famed, the inhabitants have more taste for trade than for learning. Art never flourished here, music excepted, which seems to have a charm for every mind. The theatre, though a great source of amusement during the winter months, is very inferior, and shows the taste of the people. A play, given here in its best style, would be the worst acted in Dresden, such is the difference between both theatres. Statues and monuments are very rare here. In walking around the town on those old ramparts converted into pleasant walks, one meets with a few statues, which are all the inhabitant of Leipzig has to boast. There is a small monument of Gellert, who was born here. It is of long date, cracked and broken, and consists of a short pillar, to which children cling to hold up the epitaph of him, who knew so well to say what pleased them most. Further on we meet with a statue of Thaer, erected by the Society of Agriculturists, and done by the famous sculptor Rietschel at Dresden. Thaer is represented standing on a short pedestal, and a large cloak is thrown over his shoulders. This cloak is rather wider than was necessary, and has too many folds. Hahnemann, the well-known homoeopathic physician, and the inventor of that theory, has a statue here, erected by his votaries. But Leibnitz, the philosopher, who was born here, and Goethe, who spent here years not to be forgotten, have not been memorised by the people of Leipzig. Even Mendelssohn, who died amongst them, and whose loss they sincerely regretted, one and all of them, has not been honoured with a monument. Literature flourishes here, as far as the printing of books goes. A few literary men, connected with journals published here, reside in this place. Amongst them may be numbered, as really distinguished, Dr. Gustav Kühne, editor of the 'Europa,' a weekly paper, that contains articles on art and science; and Gustav Freitag, editor of the 'Grenzboten,'

another weekly paper, half political and half literary. Gustav Kühne is known as the author of several biographical works, and amongst his novels are most praised, 'Die Quarantaine in Irenhouse,' and 'Die Rebellen in Irland.' Freitag has written for the stage. His *Valentine* is exquisite, and his new play, *Die Journalisten*, was shortly ago given in Dresden to perfection, and quite charmed the people. Emil Devrient plays in it, and is very attractive in the character of *Boly*, the editor of a paper, and principal hero.

VARIETIES.

Assyrian Rivers.—"Having been quoted by the 'New Monthly Reviewer' as an authority for the existence of a third branch of the Khabur, and Mr. Rolland still holding out "that the existence of a third branch of the Khabur must depend on assertion and evidence," I feel bound to tender that evidence as far as I am concerned. I passed the night of January 19*th*, 1840, at Pindan, a Kurd village on the banks of a river called Jakjah or Jahjakjah, a tributary to the Khabur, between Tel al Mir Amir, a remarkable mound and village on the Mesopotamian plain, and Masku or Mesko, a large village and tel on the way to Mardin, and that after crossing two large tributaries to the same river. The next day, after a short *détour* to a fordable place, I forded the river, which lay at the bottom of a ravine of limestones and basaltic rocks, at a spot where there was a tel called Daril, the ruins of a bridge with seven arches, of a village, and of a sepulchral chapel or Mizar. The river was at this point some 200 feet wide. This was four days' journey east of Urfa, and some forty miles west of Mardin; there is, therefore, no possibility of confounding this river with the river of Nisibis or with the Ras el Ain. I was accompanied at the time by Mr. E. Rassam, now H.M. Vice-Consul at Mosul; and Mr. Hormusd Rassam has travelled last summer the same line to Mosul, and would no doubt furnish Mr. Rolland with similar evidence as to the existence of the river in question. "WILLIAM FRANCIS AINSWORTH.

"Thames Villa, Hammersmith, May 2*nd*."

Gray's Elegy.—"I should be glad if any of your readers could assist me in a matter of verbal criticism. In 1805, an edition of the Poet Gray was printed at the Stanhope Press, and edited by Thomas Park, F.A.S. In the 'Churchyard Elegy' the following stanza occurs:—

'Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield;
Their harrow off the stubborn glebe has broke;
How soon did they drive their team afield!
How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!'

The word *harrow* in the second line is almost universally printed *furrow*. Which is right? I am strongly inclined to prefer *harrow*, as an implement of husbandry in addition to the *sickle* of the first line. What was the word used in the original edition? When was *furrow* substituted? Has Lord Carlisle, who has been doing for Gray what he did so well for Pope, ever noticed this circumstance? "A. M."

Racine's Sophocles.—A most interesting discovery has just been made in the Royal Library of Brussels. In looking over Etienne's edition, 1568, of the 'Tragedies of Sophocles,' the notes written on the margins have been recognised to be in the handwriting of Racine. This book once formed a portion of the collection of the late Mr. Van Hulthem, but no mention was made in the Catalogue at the period of sale of the fact, and it was by mere accident it has now been discovered.—*Brussels Herald*.

Rhododendrons.—Another of the new Himalayan Rhododendrons, brought to this country by Dr. Joseph Hooker, has just flowered for the first time in the Glasgow Botanic Garden. It is the *R. lepidotum*.—*Edinburgh Witness*.

The American Expedition to Japan.—Under the direction of the United States Government a strong naval expedition has sailed for the purpose of endeavouring to establish relations of amity and commerce with the empire of Japan. The expedition has on board a variety of articles as presents to the Emperor of Japan, to conciliate him, and pre-

pare the way for the desired negotiation. A locomotive and a quantity of railroad iron have been taken, with which to show the operations of a railway; and telegraph apparatus, with which to demonstrate how far lightnings have been converted to the use of civilization. An apparatus for taking Daguerreotypes will also be used and explained for the information of his Majesty. A beautiful barge is on board to be presented to him. Also boxes of domestic goods, comprising a great variety of manufactured articles, which are to give the Emperor an idea of the industrial pursuits of this country, and perhaps awaken a desire on his part for an exchange of commodities between Japan and the United States. Somewhat allied in character and importance to these projected operations of the Japan squadron is the expedition now prepared for the exploration and survey of the China seas, the Northern Pacific, and Behring's Straits. This expedition, in aid of which 125,000 dollars have been appropriated by Congress, is provided with a corps of scientific men, an astronomer, hydrographer, botanist, and naturalist. — *American Annual of Scientific Discovery.*

Neander's Library.—One of the most important literary acquisitions made by this country of late is the library of Neander, the celebrated German theologian and historian. It was purchased for the Rochester University we believe, and consists of five thousand volumes, many of them of the rarest kind, not to be found elsewhere in this country, and hardly in Europe. They relate mostly to Neander's own favourite pursuit, church history, embracing a complete collection of the Fathers, from Clement and Polycarp to the latest of them; of the scholars of the middle age, such as Duns Scotus, Anselm, Albertus Magnus, Roscelinus, &c.; of the contemporary writers of the Reformation, in the original editions, besides the copious philosophies of all ages. But we are sorry to learn that this treasure-house of rare learning is kept in a wooden building, which may at any moment be destroyed by fire! — *Putnam's Monthly Magazine*, N. Y.

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20	0 18 2	0 19 2	0 3 1	1 5 1	1 2 8	1 18 2
30	1 3 9	1 5 2	1 6 8	1 8 4	1 10 0	2 10 5
40	1 11 0	1 13 9	1 15 10	1 18 1	2 0 6	3 8 3

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